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ON POINT

THE JOURNAL OF ARMY HISTORY



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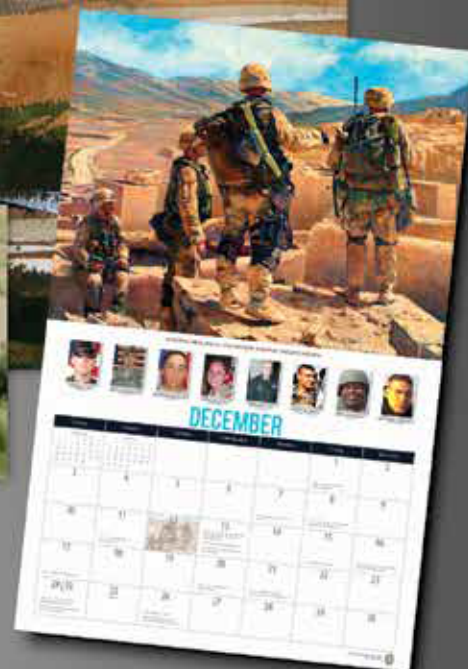
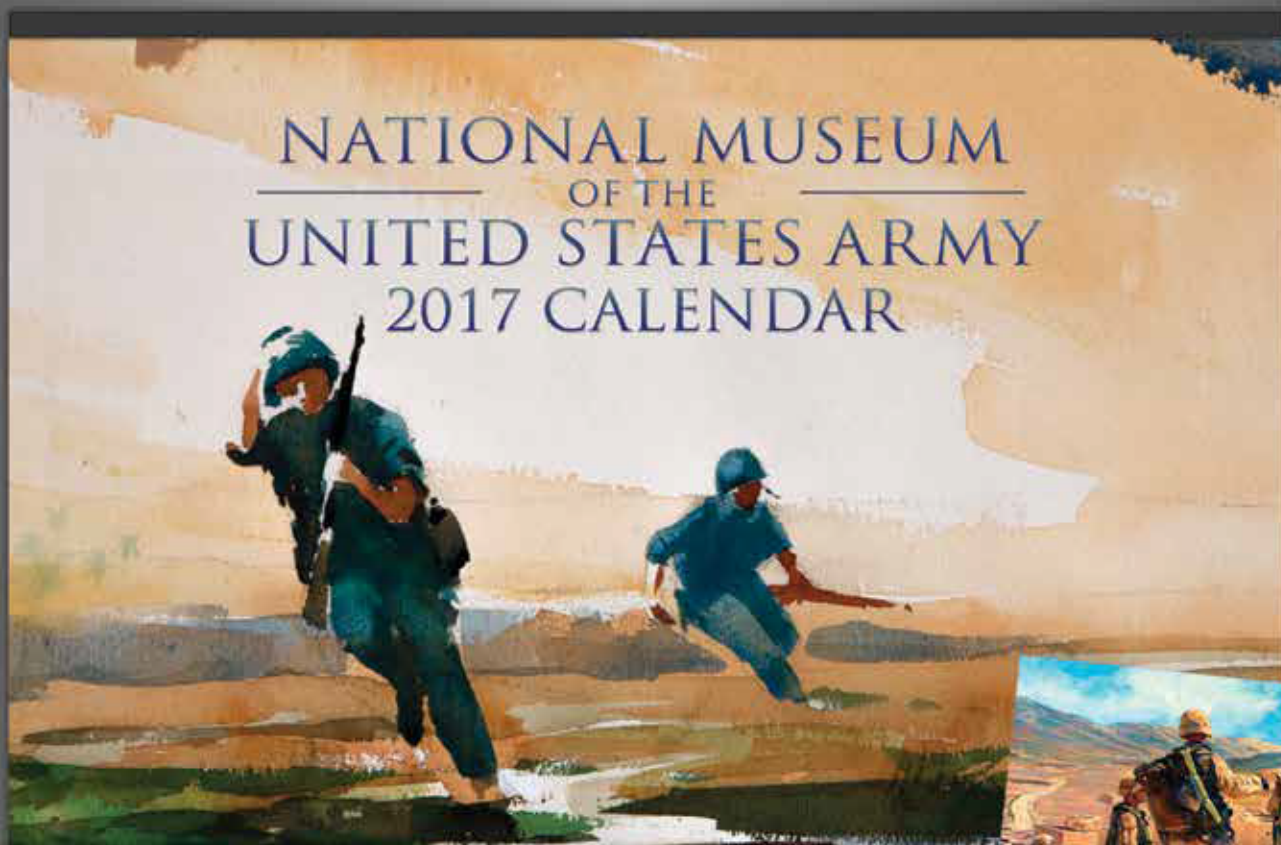
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The *National Museum of the United States Army 2017 Calendar* highlights Army history throughout the year. Each monthly page of the calendar features significant dates in the annals of Army history, soldier photographs selected from the Foundation's *Registry of the American Soldier*, and a piece of artwork from the Army Art Collection that is related to the historical dates and/or the soldiers featured.

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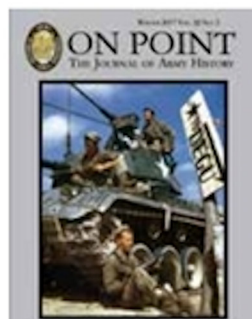
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On the Cover

Crewmen from an M24 Chaffee light tank watch for the enemy in the summer of 1950 during the early weeks of the Korean War. (National Archives)

For an article on the M24 light tank, go to page 14 of this issue of *On Point*.

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In the last issue of *On Point* you could read my remarks and see some photos of the 14 September groundbreaking ceremony. That day I pointed to the United States Army flag with its 189 campaign streamers and said they are "the only tangible public symbol we have today to represent the entire United States Army's storied 240-plus year history." We also need to remind ourselves of the militia experience prior to 1775 since our nation's military history began much earlier. It actually began with three of Massachusetts Bay Colony's regiments in 1636.

The whole point of the groundbreaking ceremony was to affirm that before long the United States Army will still have those colors and magnificent campaign streamers, but they will be inside an equally magnificent Museum that will for the first time tell the comprehensive history of our Army.

The pictures you see on this page of *On Point*, however, are about two works currently in progress. The first work, obviously, is the significant construction that has occurred in just three months since we broke ground. That's Liberty Drive you see being cut out, and it connects the Museum site directly to the Fairfax County Parkway, which itself links directly to Interstate 95, just two miles away and the most traveled highway in America, and to the rest of Fairfax County. This county is the largest population center in Virginia, and flush with Army veterans. Just six miles east of the Museum site, you're at Mount Vernon, the home and burial place of George Washington, about whom Geoffrey Perret in *A Country Made by War* wrote, "[Washington] never lost sight of at least half the great truth: no Army, no Revolution. He may or may not have guessed at the other half—no Washington, no Army."

The other work in progress is depicted in that cell phone you see me talking on. While I enjoy going to the site frequently to see the enormous progress being made, job one is still raising the rest of the funds needed to complete the Museum without having to resort to loans. While our President, Lieutenant General Roger Schultz, USA-Ret., and I were at the site, I actually received a phone call verbally affirming a \$500,000 commitment

to the Museum. In late November, we also sent a letter, signed by all ten living former Army Chiefs of Staff asking for the support of our retired general officers, many of whom are already generous supporters. We are also intent on expanding our base of over 148,000 Founding Sponsors and have developed some inviting five-figure donor sponsorships for those who simply can't afford to be on the big Donor Wall in the lobby that's reserved for major donors of \$50,000 and more.

Meanwhile, Roger and I—along with members of our Board and others—will be talking to prospects around the country, from New York City to the West Coast and many places in between—all people and corporations capable of six-, seven-, and even eight-figure gifts. Our expectations are high because it is now abundantly clear the momentum for the Army's national landmark is irreversible.



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General Gordon R. Sullivan, USA-Ret.
Chairman of the Army Historical Foundation Board



"Retrograde under these circumstances? I shall perish first!"

Major General Andrew Jackson, in a 29 December 1813 letter to Tennessee Governor Willie Blount, after Blount had advised Jackson to abandon Fort Strother in Mississippi Territory and withdraw his forces to the Tennessee border during the Creek War.

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Fort Sumter



Fort Sumter, South Carolina, is barely recognizable to the three-tiered fortress that stood at the eve of the Civil War, in April 1861. Only twenty-one of the original eighty-two casemates were restored following the war. The steel reinforced concrete Battery Huger is prominent at the center of the fort and serves as a small visitor center today. (Author's collection)

I enjoyed Patrick Feng's article on Fort Sumter in the summer issue of *On Point*. It was of special interest as I had the opportunity to visit the fort back in the summer of 2009. I was part of a Joint Army National Guard/Army Reserve Baldrige training session for a week, and one afternoon we ended the training early to go across Charleston Harbor and get a guided tour of Fort Sumter by the official Fort Sumter tour guide/historian. It was a very impressive tour.

Following the tour, I asked the tour guide/historian to recommend a book that would encompass the important role Fort Sumter played in the Civil War. He suggested a book that was available for purchase at the gift store. The lady at the counter happened to be his wife. The book was *The Siege of Charleston 1861-1865*, by E. Milby Burton. The most interesting thing about the book is that there is no indication that the Union won the Civil War.

Colonel James Youngquist, AUS Ret.
Burnsville, Minnesota

On Point

I quickly received my missing back issues of *On Point*. Thank you so much for taking care of my address change and providing the back issues. I now have three of them read. I have always enjoyed *On Point* and I didn't realize how much until I stopped receiving it!

Master Sergeant Morris H. Merle, Jr., USAR-Ret.
Davenport, Iowa

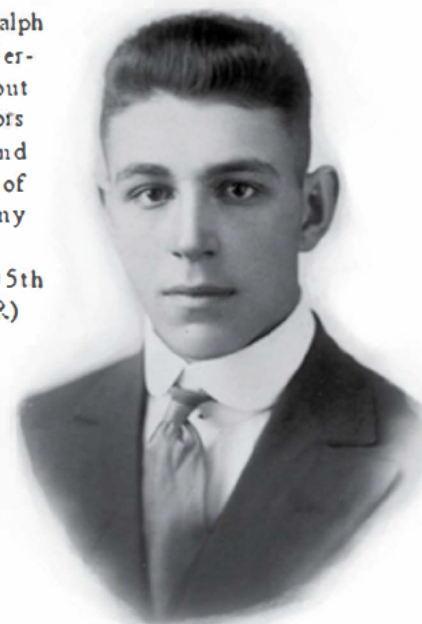
Once again you have surpassed my expectations with the fall issue of *On Point*.

I enjoyed the First Lieutenant Jonathan Bratten's article on Ralph Moan, the World War I soldier-poet, as well as the one about Colonel William Blair. Both authors made their subjects come alive and demonstrated their knowledge of each subject. Please pass along my compliments to both authors.

I also enjoyed the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR) article. I'm old, and it will always be the 505th PIR to me. The author provided a nice summation of their history. Please pass that along to the author too. I have a pistol team patch that could have been used in the 505th PIR article.

Betsy Rohaly Smoot provided a terrifically interesting article on radio intelligence in World War I. Who knew radio intelligence existed during the Great War?

I've been to Fort Sumter. Did you know the first shot fired there was fired by a Rebel civilian named Edmund Ruffin, one of the original "Fire Eaters" (strong secessionists). He committed suicide two months after the surrender at Appomattox.



A native of East Machias, Maine, Ralph T. Moan was working as a civil engineer when the United States declared war on Germany on 6 April 1917. Moan then enlisted in the Maine National Guard's Company K, 2d Infantry Regiment, which later became part of the 103d Infantry Regiment, 26th (Yankee) Division. (Photograph courtesy of the Ralph T. Moan Family)

Dave Kaufman
Chatsworth, California

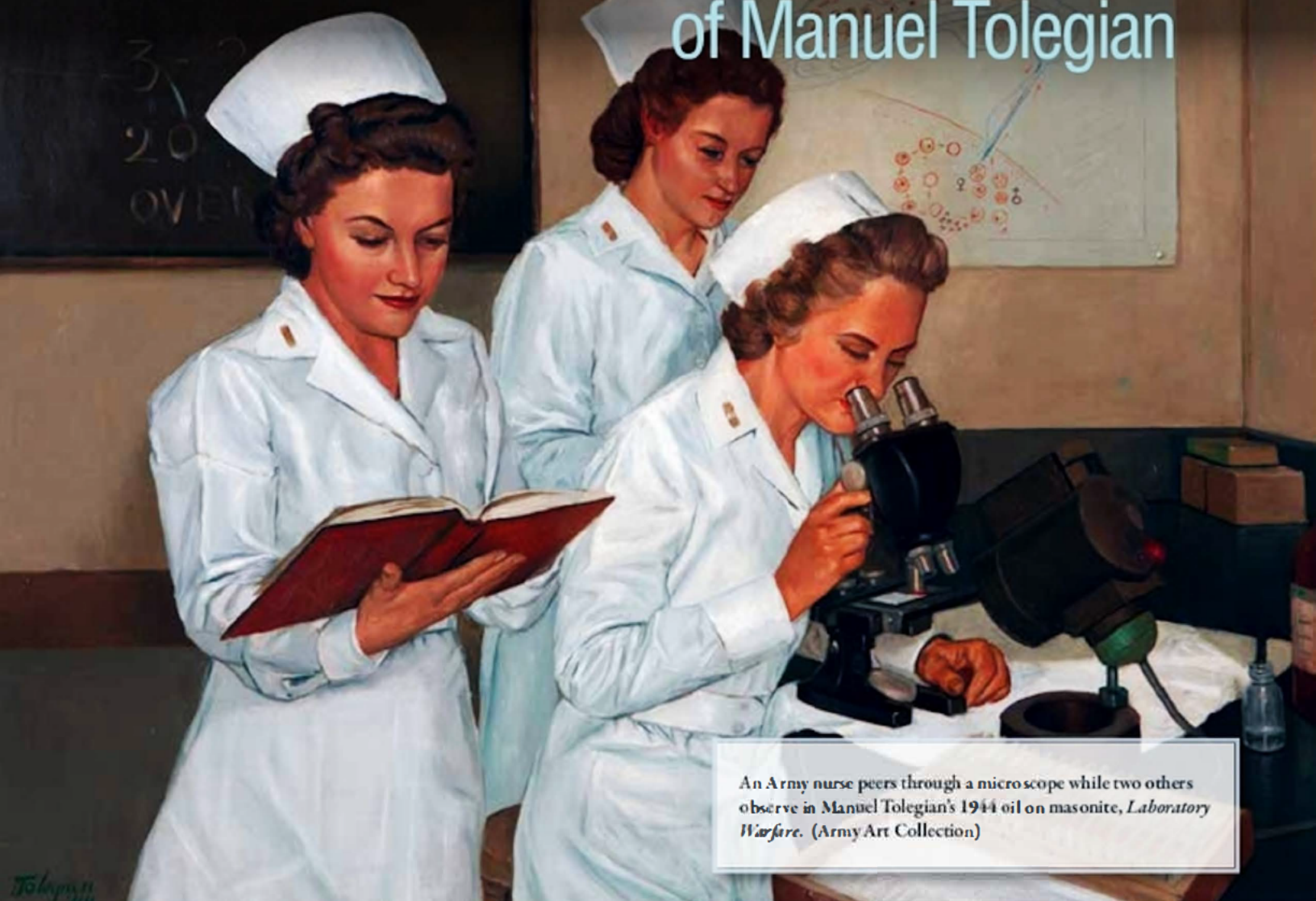
Taps

Mr. Roger B. Neighborgall

Colonel Nicholson Parker, USA-Ret.

ARMY NURSE ARTWORK

of Manuel Tolegian



An Army nurse peers through a microscope while two others observe in Manuel Tolegian's 1944 oil on masonite, *Laboratory Warfare*. (Army Art Collection)

World War II marked an important era in the history of the Army Nurse Corps. During the conflict, over 59,000 women served as Army nurses. They could be found in every theater of the war, often serving in field and evacuation hospitals just behind the front lines and subjected to enemy fire. Their skill and dedication in taking care of wounded and sick soldiers resulted in record-low mortality rates—less than four percent of American soldiers who received treatment in the field and were evacuated died. Over the course of the war, 201 nurses died from enemy action, disease, or accidents. Dozens more became prisoners of the enemy, including sixty-seven captured by the Japanese when the Philippines fell in 1942.

The pieces here showing Army nurses at Camp White, Oregon, are the work of Manuel Tolegian. Born in California in 1911 to Armenian parents who had emigrated from Turkey, Tolegian graduated from Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles in 1930. He later graduated from the University of California before studying at the Art Students League in New York City. President Franklin D. Roosevelt personally selected one of Tolegian's pieces for per-

manent display in the White House and several additional works can be found in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Smithsonian Institution, and other museums. In addition to painting, Tolegian served as a book illustrator and wrote music. He died in Sherman Oaks, California, in 1983.

After Congress withdrew funding for the Army's art program in May 1943, Abbott Laboratories, a pharmaceutical company based near Chicago, Illinois, and *Life* magazine established programs to create a visual record of the American military experience in World War II. Abbott, in coordination with the Army's Office of the Surgeon General, commissioned twelve artists, including Tolegian, to record the work of the Army's medical activities. Tolegian was sent to Camp White to observe Army nurses training for service overseas. He later produced ten pieces from his observations. The Department of Defense acquired the Abbott Collection after World War II and distributed the artwork to each service. The 194 Army-related pieces are now part of the Army Art Collection housed at the Museum Support Center at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. *RJ*



In Tolegian's 1944 gouache on paper, *Field Kitchen*, nurses and a cook prepare mess for hungry nurses during training at Camp White, Oregon. (Army Art Collection)



A nurse bandages the "wounded" arm of a fellow nurse during training in Tolegian's 1944 gouache on paper, *Frontline Nursing*. (Army Art Collection)



In Tolegian's 1944 watercolor on paper, *Home Sweet Home*, two nurses set up a tent during field training. (Army Art Collection)

U.S. and German Field Artillery in WORLD WAR II

A Comparison



At the beginning of World War II, the U.S. Army's primary field artillery pieces were the French-designed M1897 75mm gun (left) and M1918 155mm howitzer. By the time U.S. ground forces entered combat in 1942, both of these pieces were being replaced by modern and much more effective guns. (National Archives)

By William G. Dennis

AT FIRST GLANCE, there seems to be little difference between the artillery branches of the U.S. Army and German *Wehrmacht* in World War II. The American guns were a bit heavier than their German counterparts and generally had a longer range. The German 105mm piece was sufficiently similar to the American 105mm howitzer to allow the U.S. Army to equip two of its field artillery battalions with captured German guns to take advantage of the enemy ammunition stocks captured in France.

Nevertheless, evaluating an army's artillery requires a good deal more than looking at the standard guns that it deploys. To be fully effective, an artillery arm must be well supplied with suitable ammunition. There must be a sufficient supply of standard guns so that the units being supported can know what fires they can expect. It must have a good means of identifying and accurately locating a target and needs well-schooled forward observers who are in close contact not only with the batteries, but with the troops they are working with. Effective artillery requires fire direction centers that can accurately place fires and rapidly shift them from one target to another. Those fire direction centers must be able to coordinate with other artillery units to mass fires as needed. The

guns must have effective prime movers or be mounted on tracked vehicles. There must be a sufficient supply of all of the above to meet the needs of the maneuver units or other forces the batteries are supporting. Finally, the guns must be protected from counter-battery fire or other interdiction.

In other words, artillery is a system with a number of interacting components. The gun is the most visible part, but the whole system must work well to make the gun effective. Any analysis that does not examine all components of the system and acknowledge that interference with any part of it can sharply reduce its effectiveness, is incomplete.

A component by component examination of American and German artillery shows that almost from the beginning of America's participation in the conflict the U.S. Army had the superior system. American artillerymen did not try to combat the enemy's artillery by building bigger guns. The approach from the beginning was to build a better system, and it worked. That was clear to thoughtful observers at the time. Viewing the Italian campaign, German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel commented "The enemy's tremendous superiority in artillery, and even more in the air, has broken the front

open." During the Normandy campaign, Rommel added, "Also in evidence is their great superiority in artillery and outstandingly large supply of ammunition." By any reasonable standard, especially during the latter part of World War II, the American artillery arm was very clearly superior to that of the Germans.

This fact may be startling since at the beginning of World War II, American artillery was armed with obsolete French guns that were transported via horses and unreliable trucks. In the next two years, however, the U.S. Army corrected twenty years of neglect by civilian authorities. The rest of this article examines the several components of the American and German artillery systems with an eye to showing how this transformation took place and describing its impact.

The potential for rapid improvement and transformation of the Army's artillery was developed in the interwar years largely at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, the home of the U.S. Army Field Artillery School. Fort Sill was also where then Lieutenant Colonel Lesley J. McNair introduced modern instruction methods which greatly facilitated the Army's ability to rapidly expand the Field Artillery branch.

When war broke out in Europe in September 1939, the Army's artillery units were still equipped with the venerable 75mm and 155mm French guns purchased during World War I. The French 75 or, more properly the *Matériel de 75mm Mle 1897*, is considered the first of the modern artillery pieces and was capable of a high rate of fire out to 8,000 meters (approximately five miles). It was designed to counter the mass infantry attacks that were typical of the tactics of the late nineteenth century by placing large numbers of time-fused shells over bodies of enemy troops.

The Field Artillery branch had developed clear ideas of what guns were needed for the mobile war it saw coming. Their designs were well thought out and served America well and, in some cases, are still serving America's allies. When the money was finally allocated, the Army could spend it effectively (after a bit of congressional prodding) to get the guns it wanted built in a minimum of time thanks to the Army's Industrial Mobilization Plan. The United States was the only country with such a plan. The first version was largely put together by a bright young major named Dwight D. Eisen-

hower. As a result, good quality field guns were available when the Army landed in North Africa in November 1942. While the Army fought in North Africa with modern artillery pieces, the French 75mm gun still had a limited role at that stage of the war. One of the first German Mk. VI Tiger tanks put out of action in North Africa

was knocked out by a French 75 mounted in the back of a half track. Until the M10 tank destroyer became available, the Army used this expedient to provide units with a mobile antitank gun.

The effectiveness of American artillery, even at this early stage of American involvement, impressed Rommel. In an 18 February 1943 letter to his wife, he described the fighting in and around Kasserine Pass. In part he commented "an observation plane directed the fire of numerous batteries on all worthwhile targets throughout the zone."

By the time of Operation TORCH in November 1942, the Army had deployed an entire family of new guns. The M1 75mm pack howitzer, with a range of 8,880 meters (5.5 miles) for mountain, airborne, and jungle use, was put into service, and anything larger than a bicycle could move it. Two types of 105mm howitzers were assigned to infantry divisions. Each infantry regiment had a cannon company of short barreled M3 105mm howitzers that fired a reduced power round out to 7,600 meters (4.7 miles) for direct support. British historian Max Hastings has written that the Army withdrew the M3 from all but the airborne infantry late in the war, but that is inconsistent with the evidence available to the author. Each infantry division had three battalions of twelve M2 105mm howitzers, one battalion for each of the division's three infantry regiments. The M2 105mm howitzer had a range about 12,000 meters (7.5 miles). The primary role of these guns was support of a designated infantry regiment, but they could also fire in support of other units. The aim of this practice was to enhance the effectiveness of the artillery/infantry team by having the same units habitually fight together, and

it was largely successful. There was a smoothness to that cooperation that was rarely achieved with attached battalions of tanks and tank destroyers.

These new guns, especially the M2/M2A1 105mm howitzers, were superior to the French 75mm guns they replaced in part because of their longer range, but also because the larger caliber allowed a significantly larger bursting charge. They were also capable of plunging fire, which allowed the guns to engage targets in defilade, unlike the flatter trajectory of the French 75. In the infantry division their prime mover was usually a 2 1/2-ton truck or an M5 high



The most commonly used field artillery piece used by the U.S. Army in World War II was the M2A1 105mm howitzer. In this 25 March 1945 photograph, gunners from Battery C, 337th Field Artillery Battalion, prepare to fire the battery's 300,000th round since entering combat in June 1944. (National Archives)

speed tractor.

Each infantry division had another artillery battalion equipped with the tractor drawn M1 155mm howitzer with a range almost 14,600 meters (nine miles). These guns provided general support of the division.



Gunners with a cannon company in the 90th Infantry Division fire an M3 105mm howitzer during fighting near Carentan, France, 11 June 1944. M3s equipped cannon companies assigned to infantry regiments and airborne field artillery battalions during the war. (National Archives)

Heavier guns in separate battalions were attached to divisions, corps or armies as needed. The M1 4.5-inch gun, range 19,300 meters (twelve miles), was used mainly for counter-battery fire. However, by the end of World War II, this gun was withdrawn from service despite its exceptional range. The bursting charge of its round lacked power and other guns were more accurate. The M1 8-inch howitzer had a range of almost 18,000 meters (eleven miles) and fired a 200-pound shell with great accuracy. The M1A1 155mm "Long Tom" could hurl a 127-pound projectile to a range of 22,000 meters (13.7 miles), while the M1 8-inch gun fired a 240-pound shell up to 32,500 meters (20.2 miles). The largest artillery pieces employed by the Army against Axis forces was the M1 240mm howitzer, which could fire 360-pound shell out to a range of 23,000 meters (14.3 miles).

If necessary, these heavier guns could be moved by truck, but they were usually pulled by the M4 high-speed tractor. In addition, there was a self-propelled version of the Long Tom. Under favorable conditions, an American heavy artillery battalion could road march up to 160 miles per day. These vehicles made American artillery far more mobile than German guns, which still relied heavily on

horses for movement. German Field Marshal Erich von Manstein commented on the effectiveness of American trucks, even in the mud of the Russian front, where they sharply increased the mobility of Russian artillery units.

Another weapon that supplied supporting fires, although it was neither a cannon or assigned to the artillery, was the M1 4.2-inch chemical mortar. Its high explosive round had the same impact as the 105mm shell, and it was often used to supplement other supporting weapons.

Another category of guns that often supported the infantry with direct fire and indirect fire were those mounted on tank destroyers. Confusingly, that term was used to describe both towed antitank guns and those mounted on tracked vehicles. America built several such tank destroyers on a tracked chassis with a lightly armored, open-topped turret. When the Army decided to build such vehicles, the *Wehrmacht* was making successful attacks with massed tanks. These highly mobile tank destroyers were intended to rush to the scene of such an attack and seal off the penetration. By the time tank destroyers were ready for employment, the days of *Blitzkrieg* were over but they remained successful in engaging German armor.

They were also very useful as infantry support weapons. Their highly accurate, high-velocity guns were excellent for engaging fortifications and in an indirect fire role.

As mentioned earlier, the first mobile tank destroyers consisted of 75mm guns mounted on half tracks. A better system was needed quickly, so Ordnance officials decided to use available guns and chassis. The M10, the first purpose-built tank destroyer, mounted a 3-inch naval gun (available because the Navy had phased it out) on a Sherman chassis. While it was a fairly good weapon, the vehicle was unnecessarily large and slow. The M10's gun also lacked the desired punch. The M10 was eventually phased out in favor of the M18 (nicknamed the "Hellcat"), a smaller, faster vehicle that mounted a high-velocity 76mm gun. Germany continued to improve its tanks, so the Army developed the M36, which carried a 90mm anti-aircraft gun. The Army issued the M36 to tank destroyer battalions in Europe in the latter part of the war.

Most American armored divisions deployed three battalions of standard 105mm howitzers mounted, in the open, on the chassis of an M3 Lee or, more frequently, an M4 Sherman tank. These were designated the M7 and nicknamed the "Priest" for their pulpit-like machine-gun ring. While the Sherman was overmatched by German tanks in terms of main guns and armor, it was far more mechanically reliable than comparable German vehicles, and since the unarmored version that carried the artillery piece was substantially lighter than the Sherman, it seemed to handle mud quite well when compared to the standard Sherman tank. Belton Cooper, a veteran of the 3d Armored Division and author of *Deathtraps: The Survival of an American Armored Division on World War II*, considered the M7 one of the Army's best pieces of equipment.

It has only taken a few paragraphs to describe America's artil-

lery and prime movers because America was able to adequately supply all of its forces with these few types of standard guns and vehicles. This was not the case with German artillery. Germany's shortages were so severe that Germany seemed to employ nearly every gun that came into its possession. In *The Day of Battle: The War in Sicily and Italy, 1943-1944*, Rick Atkinson claims that half of the *Wehrmacht's* artillery pieces on the Eastern Front were French guns. General Hans Eberbach, while commanding Fifth Panzer Army against the British in Normandy, wrote that his artillery included guns from every major power in Europe. It would be hard to overstate the logistical problems this caused. Acquiring the proper ammunition, let alone the firing tables and other equipment needed to keep the guns operational, must have been a nightmare. To add to his problems, the British alone had six times as many guns as he could deploy.

The mobility of American artillery was a sharp contrast to Germany's situation. R. L. Dando's excellent book, *Mechanized Juggernaut or Military Anachronism? Horses in the German Army of World War II*, covers the topic quite well. The relative lack of mobility of Germany's artillery was caused by the limitations of the German economy, desultory planning, and the initiation of hostilities long before the planned expansion of the *Wehrmacht* was complete. The reliance on horses caused substantial problems in terms of speed of movement, low cargo capacity, short radius of action, and the disproportionate number of men needed to care for the animals. German horse drawn artillery could only move at a rate of perhaps twenty-five miles a day for several days before the horses needed to rest. These problems were only partly mitigated by using the German rail system. Intense Allied bombing of German railways slowed the movement of troops, equipment, and supplies.

Gunners from the 24th Field Artillery Battalion prepare to fire their M1A1 155mm gun in support of the 26th Infantry Division, 30 March 1945. Nicknamed the "Long Tom," this gun fired a 127-pound shell to a range of 22,000 meters (13.2 miles). (National Archives)



RIGHT: An M1 8-inch howitzer from Battery A, 194th Field Artillery Battalion, lights up the night sky during the fighting around Mount Camino, Italy, 3 December 1943. (National Archives)

BELOW: The largest field artillery piece employed by the U.S. Army in World War II was the M1 240mm howitzer, such as this one of Battery B, 697th Field Artillery Battalion, shown here during the Italian campaign, 30 January 1944. (National Archives)



The raids also caused heavy losses in men and materiel.

One way to appreciate the magnitude of the problems caused by horse-drawn artillery is to note that one of the reasons the German Sixth Army did not try to break out of its encirclement at Stalingrad was because most of its horses were in rehabilitation camps to the west and were outside of that encirclement. As a result, Sixth Army would not have been able to move its heavy weapons or ammunition during a breakout attempt.

The *Truppenführung*, the basic statement of Germany's war fighting doctrine, stated that the "Artillery must be used with great mobility to achieve its full effect." The U.S. Army's artillery achieved that goal far better than the *Wehrmacht* or any other army during World War II.

Part of the reason American artillery was so effective was good forward observation. During World War I, fire was adjusted by individual batteries. Battery commanders spotted the fall of their rounds, usually from a crude tower near the guns. In World War II, both German and American artillery fire direction was normally done at the battalion level. A fire direction center typically controlled at least a dozen guns, so better target acquisition and observation of the fall of the rounds than the World War I practice was needed. In the fast-paced fighting of World War II, observers needed to be somewhere near or with the troops being supported, and they needed to have rapid communication with the fire direction center. When the troops were moving, landline telephones were useless. Even in static situations, the telephones, with their vulnerable lines, had serious limitations near the front lines. Radio was a possible solution, but early AM radios were fickle and often unreliable. Major, later General, Anthony C. McAuliffe studied the FM radios that the Connecticut State Police had begun using and convinced the Army to develop FM vehicle radios. These provided a strong, clear signal for about forty miles. Germany developed a family of high frequency vehicle radios for military use, but their radios were not nearly as effective as the American versions. By the last year of the war in Europe, Germany was deploying its own family of FM radios.

America added another element to forward observation: the light airplanes previously referred to by Rommel. Initially the Army Air Corps refused to listen to the light plane manufacturers' pleas to be included in the war effort, so the manufacturers made planes available for free to generals conducting maneuvers. The benefits were so clear that, almost instantly, an irresistible clamor for their purchase arose.

The plane most used by U.S. forces was a slightly militarized



Piper Cub designated the L-4. The aircraft was painted olive drab, equipped with a radio, and modified with the addition of a window placed in the top of the fuselage behind the wing. Two planes were issued to each artillery battalion.

Replying in kind to American deployment of airborne artillery spotters was not an option for Axis forces. Germany had an airplane that would have served admirably, the Fiesler Fi 156 *Storch* (Stork), which was designed with artillery spotting in mind. Nevertheless like so much German equipment, it was over designed and therefore too expensive for Germany to produce in large numbers. In addition, Allied air supremacy would have rapidly driven them from the sky.

The use of aerial spotters solved the problem of a shortage of spotters on the ground. The troops frequently operated in separate small units, too many to have a spotter with each one. The spotter on the ground could only see nearby targets, leaving some units unable to call for fire. The airborne spotters were so effective that, in some cases, the pilot/observer directed up to ninety-five percent of the artillery fire delivered. Not only could targets be far more clearly observed from the air, but targets further behind the front lines could also be engaged.

The mere presence of the observation planes in the air over the front lines had the effect of severely suppressing enemy fire. That impact was observed in both the European and Pacific Theaters.

When the spotters were in the air, enemy batteries generally remained silent or limited their fire to a few rounds at dawn and dusk. So even after the plodding German batteries arrived at the front, they were often silent.

When they were forced to fire anyway, the counter-battery fire had a catastrophic impact on them. For example, in the winter of 1944-45, Germany attempted to hold the Allies well west of the Rhine River. When that defense

a countdown to all of the batteries participating in the shoot. Each battery calculated the time of flight from their guns to the target. Each fired during the countdown at a time that caused the initial rounds from all of the guns to impact the target simultaneously. Its effect was shattering.

The sophistication of American fire direction is illustrated in an anecdote in *My War*, a memoir by Dr. Don Fusler, a soldier who served on a 57mm antitank gun crew. His unit had occupied a large farm in western Germany. On three occasions German artillery fire came in on them with suspicious accuracy, twice hitting tank destroyers and once the unit mess. A Russian slave laborer told them that when they had occupied the farm, a German captain had been on leave there and had stayed behind with a radio when the rest of the defenders pulled out. He was captured and in his possession was a map showing all of the German artillery positions in the area. It was turned over to the division artillery, which conducted a simultaneous TOT shoot on all of the German positions. No other artillery in the world could have done that at that time.

The ability to coordinate fire planning and execution with the troops being supported, to readily observe the impact of artillery fire, and to efficiently shift that fire as needed was extremely important. Prewar studies had made it clear that a synergistic effect occurred when infantry, artillery and armor fought as a closely coordinated whole. That was repeatedly confirmed during the war.

In *Eisenhower's Lieutenants: The Campaign for France and Germany, 1944-1945*, American military historian Russell Weigley makes much of ammunition shortages arising largely out of the difficulties in getting ammunition from Normandy to the fighting fronts. According to Weigley, this limited the effectiveness of U.S. artillery. This seems overblown. He is correct that the American forces did not always have as much ammunition as it might wish because they preferred to use their guns to pound German positions. In the fighting for Hill 192 outside of St. Lô, the 2d Infantry Division alone fired up to twenty TOTs a night to keep the defenders off balance. During interrogations, German prisoners of war (POWs) in France frequently remarked on the heavy volume of American fire they had experienced.

The effectiveness of German artillery was limited by ammunition shortages that dwarfed those of the Allies. Even in Russia in 1941, ammunition shortages were felt, by late that year heavy artillery units typically had about fifty rounds per gun on hand. Primarily because of supply problems, the German artillery supporting Fifth Panzer Army in Normandy could only fire about ten percent of what the British fired. Production problems, massive bombing raids on German manufacturing centers, and air interdiction of lines of communication all combined to seriously impede Germany's ability to move ammunition and other supplies to its forces in Africa, Italy, and Western Europe.



The U.S. Army's field artillery was vastly more mobile than that of the *Wehrmacht*, which still relied heavily on horses. In this photograph, an American M7 self-propelled 105mm howitzer of the 14th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, 2d Armored Division, passes through Carentan, France, 18 June 1944. (National Archives)

collapsed Germany took heavy losses as the troops attempted to flee across the few bridges available. German artillery attempted to slow the advancing Americans and the "air observation posts had several field days firing on the artillery batteries that were trying to protect the crossing of the Germans to the East bank of the Rhine River. These batteries were destroyed or silenced."

Allied troops on the ground in all theaters were extremely grateful. The most dramatic proof is that in 1978, a former World War II observation pilot received a letter from a former infantryman. He had been under Japanese artillery fire on the island of Luzon when a spotter airplane came on the scene and silenced the Japanese battery by its mere presence. He was sure that the spotter had saved his life. Years later he succeeded in tracing down the pilot to personally express his gratitude.

The Field Artillery School at Fort Sill also developed the fire direction center for U.S. artillery battalions and brigades into a place where fires could be rapidly allocated and shifted as needed. It was common practice to combine fires of the artillery of two or more adjacent divisions in support of an attack of one of those divisions, and then shift all the fires to successive attacks by the other divisions. The four divisions fighting on the northern shoulder of the Battle of the Bulge went even further. They were supported by the fire of 348 guns and a battalion of 4.2-inch mortars. All of these guns were placed under the direction of the assistant division commander of the 1st Infantry Division and all their fire was coordinated through his headquarters.

The sophistication of American fire direction developed at Fort Sill included the uniquely American ability, at that time, to have several batteries fire "Time on Target" (TOT) shoots. The fire direction center directing the TOT broadcast

American artillery enjoyed another advantage that is hard to quantify: superior quality of the ammunition it fired. By 1942, Germany was drafting workers of military age out of factories and munitions plants and replacing them with POWs and slave laborers. They were not enthusiastic replacements, especially since they were usually working under harsh conditions. There are numerous anecdotes about sabotage that caused shells to fail to explode at crucial times. One of the best documented examples is described by Geoffrey Perret in *There's a War to be Won: The United States Army in World War II*. Germany deployed batteries of long-range 170mm guns against the Anzio beachhead that could shoot from beyond the range of Allied counter-battery fire. However, they failed to do significant damage because seventy percent of the shells were duds.

The American artillery's effectiveness got another boost in the winter of 1944-45. Against troops in the open, or without overhead cover, shells that burst just before they impact are much more effective than those that hit the ground before exploding. Normally, this is accomplished with a time fuze set to detonate the round a fraction of a second before it impacts. Getting the timing right can be tricky and slow the rate of firing. The proximity, or variable time (VT), fuze automatically exploded the shell above the ground, simplifying the gunners' job. It was available earlier in the war, but fear that Germany would capture examples and reverse engineer the VT fuze for use against the fleets of bombers devastating the country kept the Allies from using it against targets forward of the front line. The Allies planned to begin using it against ground targets with the beginning of the New Year, but the German surprise offensive in the Ardennes, later known as the Battle of the Bulge, hastened its introduction by a few days.

The Allied artillery had a number of different types of impacts on the Normandy campaign and taken together their effect was huge. The fact that TOTs could drop without warning at any time meant that there was steady attrition in the front lines. The German front was always close to breaking so units were deployed at that front as soon as they arrived. The first to arrive tended to be well equipped elite units and they were quickly ground down. For example, the well trained 3d Parachute Division arrived from its training area in Brittany a few days after the invasion. It was deployed against the left flank of the American sector. Even when the front was relatively quiet, the *Fallschirmjäger* lost approximately 100 killed and several hundred wounded each day. As a result, an elite German division was seriously depleted before it was attacked by the 2d and 29th

Infantry Divisions near St Lô. Panzer divisions that the Germans were also forced to commit to a defensive role had similar experiences. As a result, German opportunities to assemble a multi division force of near full-strength units for the massive counterattack they needed to make to regain the initiative were severely limited.

What forces they could muster for counterattacks were virtually defeated before the attacks began. The most dramatic example took place in the British sector. Three full strength Panzer divisions arrived from Belgium and Poland and assembled near Caen. They were tasked with cutting the Caen Bayeux road. Their assembly areas were so raked over by American and British artillery that the attack got off to a late shaky start and was called off less than twenty-four hours later. During American artillery attacks, U.S. guns neutralized crew-served weapons, destroyed defensive works, and kept the enemy infantry from manning its defenses until the fires were lifted.

In other cases, what should have been German successes were foiled by the tenacity of the men on the ground, backed by very substantial artillery support. For example, after the capture of Avranches and the breakout from the Normandy beachhead, the Germans launched Operation *Lüttich*, a foolhardy attempt to cut off American spearheads now penetrating deep into France. The plan was to drive from the vicinity of Falaise to the coast of the Gulf of St. Malo. The Germans made some initial progress until it reached the town of Mortain, where 2d Battalion, 120th Infantry 30th Infantry Division, occupied Hill 317. For three days, the Germans attempted



ABOVE: A gun crew from the 575th Field Artillery Battalion loads their M1 8-inch gun near Berstheim, France, in late 1944. The 8-inch gun had the longest range of any American field artillery piece of the war 32,000 meters (twenty miles). (National Archives)



LEFT: Gunners of the 244th Field Artillery Battalion fire a captured 88mm gun, 26 December 1944. American forces captured dozens of German artillery pieces, including dozens of the versatile 88s, along with tons of ammunition in the summer of 1944 and later used some of the captured ordnance against the Germans. (National Archives)



LEFT: Three gunners from Battery C, 28th Field Artillery Battalion, 8th Infantry Division, prepare to fire a 155mm shell inscribed with the greeting, "For Adolph, Unhappy New Year," 31 December 1944. (National Archives)



RIGHT: A dug-in 105mm howitzer is sheltered from the elements in the mountains of northern Italy in Edward Reep's 1945 watercolor on paper, *Salvage Roses*. (Army Art Collection)

to capture the hill, but the battalion, aided by curtains of artillery fire, held them off. It was an example of the artillery "putting solid walls of hot steel in front of American defensive positions" while calling in concentrations on German troops for miles around.

Later in the Battle of the Bulge, artillery provided the same protection. In addition, it hampered German attacks by separating infantry from its accompanying armor. Tanks unsupported by infantry were regularly taken out by American antitank guns and bazookas.

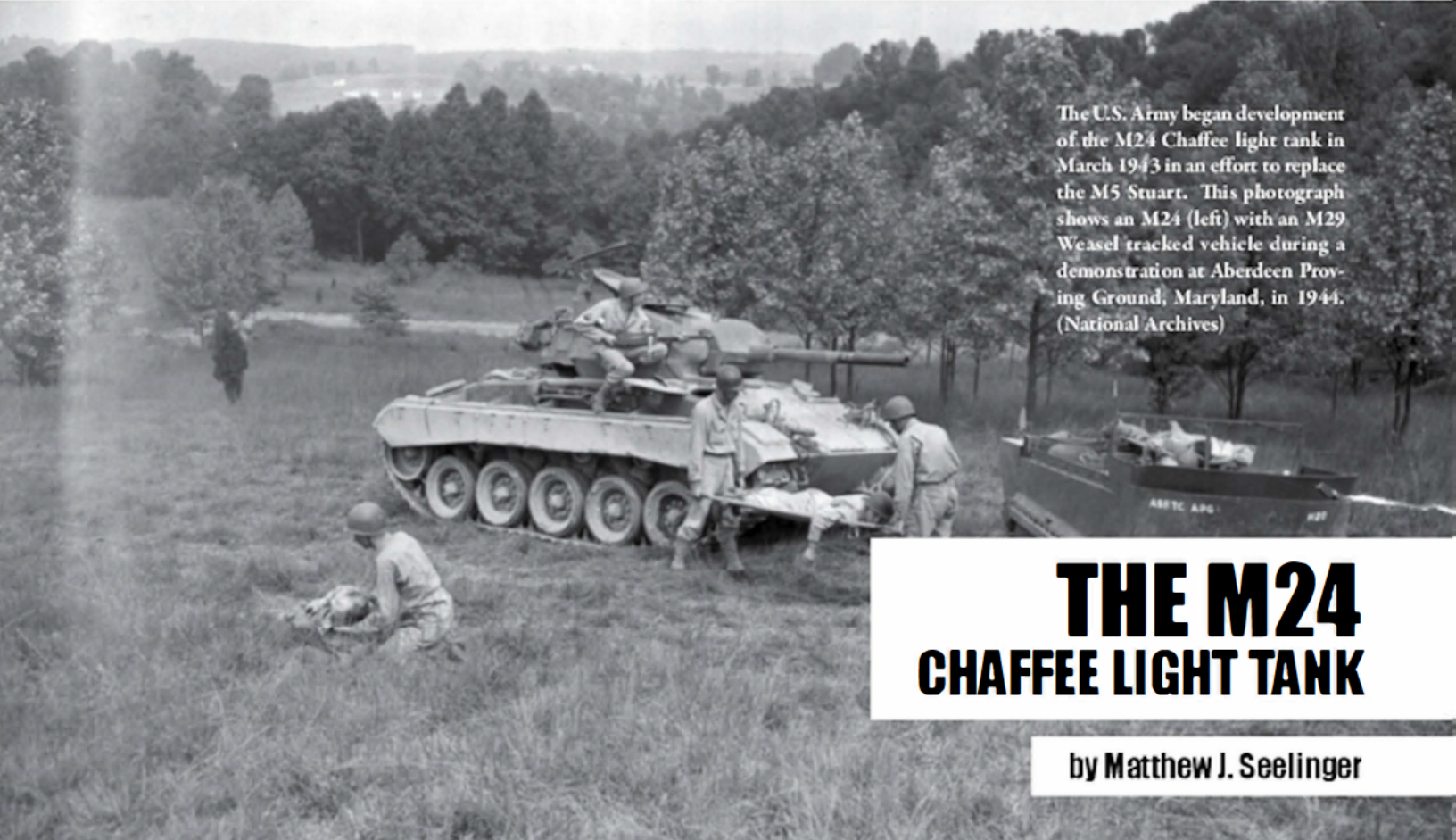
The advantages the armies of the western Allies had over the German were not limited to the excellence of their artillery. Some of these advantages are well understood and some less so. For example, there is not a lot in the histories of World War II about the fact that the Germans never developed the cavalry groups that gave the Allies an excellent reconnaissance capability. During the fighting at Mortain, there was a serious gap in the American lines. The Germans could have side slipped the axis of their advance into that gap but they never discovered it. The advantages of air superiority during the European campaigns were crucial and that topic is well developed elsewhere.

Nevertheless, the superiority of Allied and especially American artillery was one of the most important advantages the Allies had. American artillery in the European Theater was flexible, accurate,

lethal, and highly mobile. At best, the German artillery arm was "competent but uninspired." As historian Michael Doubler states in his book, *Closing with the Enemy: How GIs Fought the War in Europe, 1944-1945*, "By the summer of 1944 the field artillery had proven itself to be the most brilliant performer in the American combined arms team." General George S. Patton, commander of Third Army, also praised the artillery stating "I do not have to tell you who won the war. You know. The artillery did." The U.S. Army's artillery refers to itself as the "King of Battle," and its performance in Europe in World War II allowed it to rightfully claim that title. RJ

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

William G. Dennis earned a B.A. in History/Political Science from Whitman College before enlisting in the Army and attending Infantry Officer Candidate School. As an Army officer, he served as a 4.2-inch mortar platoon leader and as a headquarters/weapons company commander. He later earned a B.S. in Geology and a Juris Doctor. Now retired, he and his wife recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.



The U.S. Army began development of the M24 Chaffee light tank in March 1943 in an effort to replace the M5 Stuart. This photograph shows an M24 (left) with an M29 Weasel tracked vehicle during a demonstration at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, in 1944. (National Archives)

THE M24 CHAFFEE LIGHT TANK

by Matthew J. Seelinger

During much of World War II, the U.S. Army relied on the M3/M5 Stuart series of light tanks for cavalry reconnaissance missions. While it was a mechanically reliable vehicle and fairly fast and maneuverable, the Stuart's design dated back to the 1930s, and it was all but obsolete by late 1942 as its thin armor, high silhouette, and light 37mm main gun made it a liability to its crew. In 1943, the Army began developing a new light tank to replace the Stuart. The result was the M24 Chaffee, which entered service in late 1944.

Recognizing the M3 design was almost obsolete in 1941, the Army began work on a replacement light tank designated the T7 in February 1941. Armored Force requirements necessitated the addition of increasingly heavier firepower (first a 57mm weapon, then a 75mm main gun) and increasingly larger engines for better performance. By August 1942, the T7's weight had grown from fourteen tons to twenty-nine tons when combat loaded. When the T7 was standardized later in the year, it was redesignated as the M7 medium tank. Over the course of development, the T7 was transformed from a light tank to a poorly performing medium tank, and only seven production vehicles were accepted by the Army before it was canceled in March 1943.

Combat experience in North Africa in 1942-43 proved that the Army's light tanks, even the improved M5A1s, had little value on the battlefield, even in a scouting role. Not only was the M5 outclassed by German tanks and unable to defend itself against them, it was also vulnerable to antitank guns and field artillery. Nevertheless, the Army still believed light tanks could fulfill a valuable role, particularly reconnaissance missions, as long as they avoided direct confrontations with enemy armor. As a result, M5s would remain in tank and cavalry reconnaissance units until the Army could replace them with an improved light tank.



The M24 first entered combat in December 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge. Tank crews were immediately impressed with the Chaffee's improved mobility in ice, snow, and mud due to its wide tracks. (National Archives)

TOP: An officer from a tank battalion uses an M24 to familiarize riflemen of the 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, with the new Chaffee light tank, 31 January 1945. (National Archives)

MIDDLE: Troopers from the 18th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, 14th Cavalry Group, man their M24 in Petit-Tier, Belgium, in early February 1945. (National Archives)

BOTTOM: Soldiers from the 752d Tank Battalion cover their M24 with a tarp after a day of maneuvers in Cormons, Italy, 8 November 1946. After World War II, American forces in Italy, Germany, Austria, and Japan used the Chaffee to conduct security patrols in their zones of occupation. (National Archives)

Early experiments to simply mount a 75mm gun on an M5 chassis proved feasible, but the larger gun took up so much space within the tank and added such a significant amount of weight that machine guns and other features had to be eliminated, something the Armored Force was not willing to do. In March 1943, the Ordnance Department authorized development of a new light tank designated the T24. A month later, on 29 April, the Army approved the T24's design and assigned the Cadillac Motor Car Company (which also produced the M5) of General Motors the task of developing the tank.

To speed up development, Cadillac incorporated a hull design intended for a self-propelled artillery system. Cadillac modified the design by sloping the armor, a move that increased protection but kept weight in check. The T24 was equipped with a larger three-man turret (the M5 had a smaller two-man version) to mount a 75mm gun. A new torsion bar suspension replaced the older vertical volute system found on the M5 and gave the new tank a better ride and a more stable gun platform. Designers also incorporated wider tracks on the T24 to reduce ground pressure and improve cross-country mobility. The T24 was powered by the same dual Cadillac Series 42 V-8 gasoline engines as the M5, but Cadillac installed an improved transmission on the T24.

Work on the T24's 75mm gun took place at the Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois. The gun eventually mounted on the T24 was a derivative of the T13E1 lightweight 75mm cannon used on the B-25H Mitchell medium bomber. Designated the M6, it shared the same ballistics and fired the same ammunition as the M3 75mm gun found on the M4 Sherman, but used a different recoil system that allowed for a shorter recoil when the gun was fired.

Cadillac delivered the first pilot vehicle to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, on 15 October 1943. Trials uncovered some problems with the new recoil system and some automotive components, but overall, the T24 performed well. All problems were largely rectified when the second pilot vehicle underwent Armored Board



tests at Fort Knox, Kentucky in December 1943. The board was pleased with the vehicle's performance but requested some additional modifications, such as the use of wet storage for main gun ammunition and a vision cupola for the tank commander, before it went into production. The Ordnance Department's initial orders for the tank, now designated the M24, were for 1,000 vehicles, but this was soon increased to 5,000. Production of the M24 began in April 1944, but it did not really begin to pick up until June after manufacture of the M5A1 ceased in May. In addition to Cadillac, the Army selected a second

manufacturer, Massey Harris (which had also produced M5s), to build M24s. A total of 4,731 tanks were manufactured by the time production ended in August 1945.

The M24, nicknamed the Chaffee in honor of Major General Adna R. Chaffee, Jr., the "Father of the Armored Force," weighed in a little over nineteen tons (38,750 pounds). It had a length of 16 feet, 9 inches (18 feet with the main gun), a width of 9 feet, 4 inches, and a height of 8 feet, 1 inch. Since the M24 was a light tank, the armor was relatively thin, with a maximum thickness of 1.5 inches at the gun shield and 1 inch at front of the hull, turret, and sides, but it was sloped (particularly on the turret and the front of the hull), providing better overall protection than the slightly thicker (but largely flat) armor of the M5 Stuart. The M24's dual V-8 engines gave it a top speed of thirty-five miles per hour on roads, and its 100 gallon fuel tank gave it a maximum range of 175 miles.

In addition to its 75mm main gun, the M24 was armed with an M2 .50 caliber machine gun mounted on a pintle at the rear of the turret for air defense; an M1919A4 .30 caliber machine gun in the turret alongside the main gun; and an M1919A4 in the bow. The Chaffee could carry forty-eight rounds of 75mm main-gun ammunition, 440 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition, and 3,750 rounds of .30 caliber ammunition. The M24 was also equipped with a 2 inch mortar in the turret for firing smoke rounds.

The Chaffee was operated by a crew of five: commander, gunner, loader, driver, and assistant driver/bow gunner. Original designs for the M24 called for a four-man crew: the assistant driver was to serve as the loader when the main gun was in use, but this arrangement proved awkward, so a designated loader was added.

Deliveries of the first M24s slowly began to reach U.S. forces in Europe in the late autumn of 1944. By this time, American armored officers had all but given up on the M5 light tank. An Armored Force



An M24 from the 24th Infantry Division passes by a group of Korean civilians as it heads to the front to combat North Korean forces, 8 July 1950. The light M24s were the only tanks available to the first Army forces deployed to Korea following the outbreak of war on 25 June 1950, and they fared poorly against the heavier North Korean T-34s. (National Archives)

observer visiting the 12th Armored Division was told that the M5s of the division's light tank companies were so useless that they were often employed as "anti-tank gun bait" for the division's M4 Shermans. Other units used M5s solely for resupply and evacuation vehicles for M4-equipped units, refusing to expose their Stuarts to direct combat.

Army planners called for two tank battalions equipped entirely with M5A1s, the 744th and 759th, to receive the first M24s, followed by the light tank units of the 2d and 3d Armored Divisions. However, these plans soon went awry

shortly after the first M24s arrived in France. As the new tanks were being transported to the front in December 1944, the *Wehrmacht* launched its surprise offensive in the Ardennes. During the early confused fighting of what would become known as the Battle of the Bulge, two of the twenty M24s destined for the 744th Tank Battalion ended up with the 740th, which had just arrived in the European Theater of Operations (ETO) without tanks and was scrounging ordnance depots for vehicles. The two Chaffees were assigned to the 744th's Company D on 20 December, and both took part in the fighting near Stoumont and La Gleize in Belgium that finally stopped *Kampfgruppe Peiper* and its drive to the Meuse River. The 744th Tank Battalion received the remaining eighteen M24s on 24 December but was not fully equipped with Chaffees until 15 February 1945.

With the arrival of the M24 in the ETO, the Army started a program to train light tank crews on the M24. The Army also started a separate program to familiarize U.S. troops with the new light tank due to some concerns that the M24's shape (from its sloped armor) and low silhouette could be confused for the German Mk. V Panther. This program soon led to a new nickname for the M24: "Panther Pup."

Tank crews found the M24 possessed several advantages over the older M5s and even the heavier M4s. Tankers praised the Chaffee's speed, maneuverability, mobility in mud and snow, low silhouette, and mechanical reliability. The M24 also earned high marks for its telescopic sights and ample room in the fighting compartment that improved crew efficiency and reduced fatigue. The M24's 75mm main gun was a significant improvement over the 37mm gun on the M5, and while they were not designed for head-to-head battles with the heavier German tanks, a handful of Chaffees scored victories against enemy armor.

Nevertheless, tank crews also found faults with M24, some of them inherent in any light tank design. A report from the 744th Tank Battalion claimed the Chaffee provided no appreciable improvement in armor protection and that its belly armor provided little defense against enemy mines. It also added that the 75mm main gun, while better than the M5's 37mm, was still generally incapable of destroying enemy tanks except at very close ranges, and the amount of ammunition carried by the Chaffee was insufficient—crews usually expended their full ammunition loads after brief periods of combat. Tank crews also complained about the awkward placement of the 50 caliber machine gun.

As more M24s began to arrive in Europe, the Army modified its original plan to reequip its light tank units in armored divisions and independent tank battalions with M24s. Instead, the Army prioritized the delivery of M24s to cavalry reconnaissance squadrons. While cavalry troopers had similar complaints about the M24, overall, they were much more satisfied with the Chaffee's performance, especially its speed and mobility, than tank battalion crews. Once cavalry units were reequipped, armored divisions then began to switch out their M5s for M24s. The Army's last four armored divisions to arrive in the ETO, the 8th, 15th, 16th, and 20th, were already equipped with Chaffees by the time they entered combat.

Most of the M24s deployed to Europe saw action in the Ardennes-Alsace, Rhineland, and Central Europe campaigns, only a handful reached Italy for service with the 1st Armored Division's 81st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. None saw action during the fighting in the Pacific. The Marine Corps received ten M24s for evaluation but rejected the Chaffee for service. The British Army received 302 M24s through Lend Lease by the end of the war and was very pleased with the tank's performance.

After World War II, the M24 equipped U.S. Constabulary units performing occupation duties in Germany and Austria. They also served with occupation troops in Japan—tanks such as the M4 were too heavy for Japanese roads and bridges. When war broke out in Korea on 25 June 1950, the Army rushed M24s to the fighting front

in support of the 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. During combat with the powerful North Korean T-34s, the Chaffees performed badly, partly because they had been poorly maintained during the occupation of Japan. Despite being overmatched, the outgunned M24s managed to destroy as many as eight T-34s before large numbers of M4E8 Shermands and M26 Pershings arrived in Korea and replaced them as front-line tanks in the fall of 1950. For the rest of the war, the M24 was assigned to divisional reconnaissance companies. By 1953, the Army had withdrawn the M24 from service and replaced it with the M41 Walker Bulldog light tank.

The M24 chassis proved to be so reliable and adaptable that it was converted into several other systems including the M37 105mm self-propelled howitzer, the M41 155mm self-propelled howitzer, and the M19 multiple gun motor carriage (armed with twin 40mm Bofor anti-aircraft guns). Both the M37 and M41 saw action in the Korean War, while the M19 was used in World War II and the Korean War.

The United States supplied many of its allies with surplus M24s in the years following World War II. France was the largest recipient with 1,254 Chaffees. French M24s saw combat in colonial wars in Indochina (including the Battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954) and Algeria. Other NATO allies, including Norway, Belgium, Turkey, and Italy were equipped with M24s. South Vietnam received 137 Chaffees from the United States, but South Vietnamese M24s saw more action in the coup attempts of 1963 and 1964 than against the Viet Cong before being replaced by the M41. In all, the armed forces of twenty-eight nations were equipped with the M24, and a handful of Chaffees currently remain in service.

The M24 Chaffee was the last U.S. light tank to see extensive combat action. While a significant improvement over the M5 Stuart, the M24 still possessed many of the drawbacks found in light tanks, namely thin armor and relatively weak firepower. Nevertheless, when employed in its intended role, reconnaissance, the M24 proved to be an effective vehicle, and it capably served with the U.S. Army in two wars as well as the armies of many of its allies. [P]



After World War II, the United States provided more than 3,300 surplus M24s to its allies, including this one that served with the Royal Netherlands Army until the early 1960s. (Nationaal Militair Museum)

MEMBERS' PAGE

Name: Colonel Stanley E. Crow, USA-Ret.
Home: Springfield, Virginia

Colonel Stanley E. Crow, USA-Ret., began his military career when he completed the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Program at the University of Missouri at Columbia in 1976 and was commissioned as a Field Artillery officer. He attended the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, where he graduated on the Commandant's List. He served in Germany for four years in a variety of VII Corps field artillery assignments. He then served as an instructor in the Tactics Department, U.S. Army Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Colonel Crow was released from active duty in July 1982 and joined the Missouri Army National Guard (MOARNG). During the next four years, he served in several assignments to include battery commander in 1st Battalion, 128th Field Artillery, and the MOARNG Education Services Officer and State Family Programs Officer. He returned to active duty as an Active Guard and Reserve officer in November 1986 and was as an assistant professor of Military Science at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio, until August 1989. He then served as an instructor and consultant in the Organizational Leadership Department, National Guard Professional Education Center, Camp Robinson, Arkansas, until May 1991.

In May 1991, he was assigned as the Pay and Allowances Program team leader in the ARNG Plans Programming and Analysis Office in the Pentagon. He then served as an ARNG plans analyst, and then as executive officer in the ARNG's Comptroller Office. Beginning in 1994, he served as the Process and Systems Analyst for the ARNG National Guard Bureau. In this position, he provided advice and assessment to ARNG senior leadership.

In addition, he was responsible for the Quality Training Center staff and for all of the training they provided to the ARNG. He also served as a consultant and facilitator for senior level conferences, meetings, and workshops.

Colonel Crow served as the Chief, Organization Development Office, between 2004 and 2006. In this capacity, he was responsible for deploying the Strategic Management System to the fifty four states and territories for implementation of the ARNG's Army Communities of Excellence Program, and for supporting the Chief of Staff Advisory Council and many other senior leadership meetings. He retired from ARNG in March 2006.

Since his retirement from military service in 2006, Colonel Crow has served as the Assistant Director for National Guard Affairs, Association of the United States Army (AUSA). He is the AUSA point of contact for all National Guard matters and membership and serves as the field liaison to both AUSA's chapters and to ARNG units. In addition, he is the staff coordinator for AUSA's Reserve Component Advisory Committee.

Colonel Crow holds a B.S. in Secondary Education from the University of Missouri. He later earned a B.A. in German and a master's degree in Business Administration. His military education includes the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Hourglass Device, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Parachutist Badge, and Army Staff Identification Badge.

Colonel Crow has been a life member of the Army Historical Foundation since 2008 and serves on the Foundation's Membership Committee. He is married to the former Katherine

L. Smith of Wichita, Kansas, and resides in Springfield, Virginia. They have a son and a daughter. PJ



Colonel Stanley E. Crow, USA Ret.

Submit Members' Page entries
to Matthew Seelinger,
On Point editor at matt-
seelinger@armyhistory.org. Sub-
missions must include
a photo and should not
exceed 500 words.

Colonel Stanley E. Crow, USA-Ret.

The 203d Field Artillery Battalion

By First Lieutenant Jonathan Bratten, MEARNG

The 203d Field Artillery Battalion (FAB) came into existence because of a major change within the U.S. Army's organizational structure. Prior to 1942, the Army's field artillery assets were organized into regiments, each consisting of two battalions. The 152d Field Artillery Regiment was organized along these lines in 1922 as an element of the Maine National Guard. The regiment's 1st Battalion was headquartered in Aroostook County, the northernmost county in Maine and located along the U.S.-Canadian border. Many of the battalion's men were of old Franco-American and French-Canadian families. The 2d Battalion was organized in 1924 around Bangor.



The distinctive unit insignia of the 203d Field Artillery Battalion (FAB) was first approved for the 203d Field Artillery Regiment. The 203d FAB was originally the 1st Battalion, 203d Field Artillery, until reorganized and redesignated on 1 March 1943. (Institute of Heraldry)

The 152d Field Artillery Regiment became one of the three field artillery regiments assigned to the 43d Division and, with the whole division, was activated on 24 February 1941 for one year of service. The Army later selected the 43d Division to be one of the National Guard divisions to take part in the General Headquarters Maneuvers, more commonly known as the Louisiana Maneuvers, in August-September 1941. While the division's length of federal service was to last one year, this changed on 7 December 1941 when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and the United States entered World War II.

In early 1942, the Army began a major reorganization of both its divisions and field artillery units. In addition to reducing the number of infantry regiments from four to three in the infantry divisions, the Army reorganized field artillery regiments into battalions. Some of these would become division artillery assets while others would be tasked to general support at the corps or army level. Thus, on 19 February 1942, 1st Battalion, 152d Field Artillery, was redesignated as the 1st Battalion, 203d Field Artillery, and relieved from the 43d Division (2d Battalion, 152d Field Artillery was reorganized and redesignated as the 152d FAB and remained with the 43d Infantry Division). On 1 March 1943, 1st Battalion, 203d Field Artillery, was reorganized and redesignated as the 203d FAB at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The 203d FAB consisted of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Service Battery, A, B, and C Batteries, and a medical detachment, for a total of 515 soldiers. The battalion received additions of new recruits and draftees through 1943, considerably leavening the unit's northern Maine make-up. The 203d FAB then rotated through training centers at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Camp Iron Mountain in the California deserts before arriving at Camp Shanks, the staging area for the New York Port of Embarkation, in early 1944. On 20 February 1944, the 203d FAB, under Lieutenant Colonel John G. Doran, was loaded onto the British ship *Pasteur* for the voyage to Europe.

The 203d landed at Liverpool, England, on 29 February and was assigned to an encampment on the Salisbury Plain unceremoniously dubbed "Misery Hill." Here, the 203d was issued their M1 155mm howitzers, with each firing battery (A, B, and C) receiving four. They were also equipped with M5 tractors and wheeled vehicles to haul the battalion's guns, equipment, and soldiers.

While at Misery Hill, the 203d took part in additional maneuvers, culminating in a two-week exercise with XIX Corps, to which they would be attached as corps artillery for the duration of the war. The men's experiences of England were common for the thousands of American troops awaiting D-Day—it was rainy, the food was bad, and there was a lot of boredom.

D-Day—6 June 1944—came and went for the men of the 203d FAB who were eager to learn when they would arrive in France. On 19 June, the battalion moved out to Southampton where the men got their first look at the Normandy casualties and German prisoners of war. The channel crossing came on 23 June, and that afternoon the three line batteries landed on famed Omaha Beach. Headquarters Battery arrived a week later. The batteries were greeted by enthusiastic infantrymen who had been pinned down and were waiting on heavy artillery to show up. The batteries moved forward to a position around La Folie and dug in. Batteries A and B were the first to go into action on 25 June, firing in support of the 30th Infantry Division. These were the first shots fired by XIX Corps artillery in World War II.

After landing in France, Allied forces quickly became bogged down in the "bloody bocage"—the hedgerows—of Normandy and faced stiff German resistance. On 5 July, the 30th Division made a combat crossing of the Vire River and the 203d was detailed to provide fire support. The operation was successful, but a heavy German counterattack soon followed. Each of the 203d's batteries received fire mission after fire mission, with the guns hammering away for nearly twenty-four hours. Support personnel were pressed into service to carry ammunition while



A cannoneer from the 203d FAB cleans the breech of an M1 155mm howitzer during a lull in operations around St. Lô, France, in July 1944. (Arndt Family Collection)



gunners poured water from the nearby streams into the gun barrels to cool them between rounds. After firing 2,400 rounds, German forces, which had come within a few hundred yards of the guns themselves, were finally repulsed.

The next move for the 203d was against St. Lô. Repeated bombardments and counter-battery fire, while dodging incoming artillery and *Luftwaffe* strafing runs, became the norm. During Operation COBRA on 25 July, the battalion fired to knock out enemy anti-aircraft defenses until, according to a unit diary, "the air attack came over, including P-47s, P-38s, Liberators and Fortresses, and B-26s, so that the sky was full of planes, and when our bombing started to hit, the ground would shake where we were." The 203d then joined in a general corps barrage that allowed infantry and armored units to breakthrough the German lines, capture what was left of St. Lô, and begin the Allied drive east.

Through the end of July and into August, the 203d continued marching east while providing fire missions on an almost daily basis. The night skies were full of planes of both sides, forcing the 203d to play a deadly game of cat-and-mouse. The gunners waited until the sound of enemy aircraft diminished before firing their guns rapidly, then stopping as soon as they heard the planes returning. One of the men from Battery B observed that a "robot plane" flew over one night. This was one of the dreaded V-1 flying bombs used by the Nazis to target Allied installations and cities.

The 203d FAB was often well forward of division artillery and occasionally exchanged small arms fire with German soldiers. On 18 August, the battalion fired its last missions in support of the



ABOVE: Soldiers from Battery B, 203d FAB, move their howitzers into the Rütgen Forest during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. (Arndt Family Collection)

LEFT: Private First Class Frederick Arndt (shirtless) and two other men from Battery B, 203d FAB, clean their howitzer during a pause in the fighting. Arndt took the photographs featured in this article. (Arndt Family Collection)

larger Allied operation to close the Falaise Pocket. It was the 203d FAB's last mission in Normandy.

The next day, the battalion moved out on a long 140-mile convoy to the east. From here they supported the crossing of the Seine River, protecting the operation's left flank. After firing steadily for several days, the 203d crossed the Seine on 28 August behind the 79th Infantry Division. As the battalion moved further into France, they encountered more and more evidence of the war: decomposing bodies of German and Allied soldiers, bombed out villages, and columns of refugees. The Free French were rounding up collaborators and, according to a unit history, they "clipped off the hair of the women who had fraternized with the Jerries." They also encountered graves of French civilians who had been killed by retreating Germans.

The 203d FAB continued to advance east, keeping pace with the infantry. At times, the battalion's trucks were used to haul infantrymen to the front. On 8 September, the 203d pushed into Belgium and made camp near the historic battlefield of Waterloo. The men finally got a few passes at this time and were able to visit Brussels and Waterloo. This period of rest was short-lived, however, and within a few days, the 203d was back in action, firing from Belgium into Holland. Some of the men went out to act as infantry along the Albert Canal, and watched their own battalion's rounds fly overhead and smash into retreating columns of German infantry.

As the 203d FAB approached German defenses of the Siegfried Line, movement slowed but the call for fire missions remained steady. The battalion was in Holland now and advancing with front-line units. At times, the batteries would have to slow their advance as they had caught up with their own armor as it fought through towns and villages. Air raids were a constant threat, not just from German aircraft but from Allied planes in "friendly fire" incidents. The 203d

A gun crew from Battery B pauses for a photograph as they prepare a firing position in the Rötgen Forest during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. (Arndt Family Collection)

BELOW: A soldier from Battery B checks the fuzes on 155mm rounds. In late 1944, the 203d FAB was issued proximity fuzes that greatly enhanced the effectiveness of its fire missions. (Arndt Family Collection)

was to support First Army's drive to break the Siegfried Line, but bad weather delayed the attack day after day. Finally, on 2 October, the push began. Fire missions were continuous against German defenses. Over the course of three days, the 203d fired over 3,000 rounds to support the 30th Infantry Division, which broke through on 5 October.

The 203d followed the 30th Division and entered Germany on 7 October. German artillery and the *Luftwaffe* contested every inch of ground. The battalion received random indirect fire day and night, and enemy air attacks came at what seemed like two-hour intervals. The men had learned the importance of digging deep foxholes while in Normandy, and this experience served them well in Germany.

The reduction of Aachen was the next objective, and the gunners of the 203d FAB fired thousands of rounds into the city. Number Two Gun in Battery B fired one round every six minutes one night. The following morning, the gunners found that its trail had disappeared into the mud and it took three vehicles to pull it out of the ground. Despite the large amounts of ordnance expended, the battle to take Aachen proceeded slowly due to the strong construction of the city's buildings. At times, the batteries employed single 155mm howitzers to destroy strong points holding up the infantry. They even destroyed enemy tanks on occasion. The battalion also fired colored smoke rounds to mark targets for P-47 Thunderbolts circling over Aachen.

When Aachen finally fell on 21 October, the men of the 203d FAB were able to get a little rest. Captured German accordions were put to good use by the men in their dugouts until they wore out. XIX Corps was then reassigned to Ninth Army in preparation for a new offensive. Throughout November, the 203d FAB kept pressing forward, enduring enemy counter-battery fire and firing heavy concentrations in support of the infantry. The forward observers with the infantry were calling fire missions to literally take down villages house by house because the street fighting was taking a toll on the grunts of the 30th Division. When the 203d moved to Mariadorf on 20 November, they saw the fearful nature of their fire, as the town was practically levelled. The 30th Division was advancing nearly every day, the 203d leap-frogged with the 113th FAB every other day to provide near constant artillery coverage.

Thanksgiving came and went with the men feeding on turkey and then firing on German infantry and tanks. Battery A received a direct hit from enemy counter-battery fire on 25 November, killing three men and wounding five others. The continuous combat took a toll on the men's mental resiliency; one man in Battery B tried to shoot himself and was taken off the frontlines. One of the battalion's observation planes, an L-4 Grasshopper (a military version of the Piper Cub), was shot down with the loss of both soldiers. Attacks from V-2 rockets were also becoming more common.

During the early morning darkness of 16 December, the soldiers of the 203d noticed that the *Luftwaffe* was suddenly very active. Soon, the battalion received reports that German paratroopers, including some wearing American uniforms, had landed near the battalion's ordnance section. The Battle of the Bulge had begun.

With a one-hour notice, the 203d FAB raised trails on their guns and moved south on 21 December bound for the Rötgen Forest, just south of the Hurtgen Forest. The battalion was positioned on the northern flank of the German breakthrough in the snowy woods near the Ardennes Forest. The men of the 203d found that they could not dig in, and so they built log huts with sturdy roofs to protect against incoming German fire. Tree bursts showered the men with splinters as they fired day and night to try to halt the German onslaught. Their main targets were the roads leading into the Ardennes, which the 203d pummeled repeatedly, halting German supply columns. As a diarist in Battery B said, "We celebrated Christmas Eve by firing plenty. If Jerry hung up his stocking, we filled it with HE [High



Explosive]" Clear weather assisted in breaking the German offensive as Allied air power was unleashed. Nevertheless, the 203d remained in their positions well into January and continued to provide constant fire support.

Ninth Army's next objective following the Bulge was the Roer River. The 203d moved into position and prepared their guns for the barrage. On 13 February, a small fire began in a church where ammunition was being stored. Powder bags caught fire, killing two men and severely wounding three officers. Three soldiers, including Private First Class Frederick Arndt, who took the pictures seen in this article, rushed into the burning structure and dragged out the three officers and removed boxes of fuzes. Had the fuzes detonated, all men in the building would have been killed. For their valor, all three men were awarded the Soldier's Medal.

The 203d began firing in support of the Roer River crossing operation at 0245 on 23 February 1945. The battalion kept up a sustained bombardment until 0700, it then fired steadily for two more days in a bombardment so intense that the ground shook and the gunners could barely hear the fire commands. The 30th Division crossed the Roer on 24 February, and the 203d, with little rest, followed the next day. From here, it was a steady grind as the 30th Division pushed deeper and deeper into Germany.

On 22 March, the Ninth Army's crossing of the Rhine River commenced. The 203d fired in support of both the British and the Americans for two days as they crossed the river. Even at this late point in the war, the battalion was receiving plenty of German counter-battery fire as well as strafing attacks from the *Luftwaffe*. After crossing the Rhine, the 203d moved into the Ruhr industrial region of Germany accompanying the 30th Division and the 2d Armored Division on their drive into the heart of enemy territory. The battalion was sent Italian prisoners to serve as laborers for them, and the Americans and Italians got along well; the Italians stayed very close to U.S. soldiers for fear of the Germans.

On 11 April, the 203d went into position outside the town of Alvisia, with the gun crews dodging enemy machine-gun fire as they set up their howitzers. The heavy 155mm rounds soon began dropping on the nearby Germans and drove them back. By the end of the day, the 203d was firing into Brunswick, a city halfway between the German border and Berlin. Their goal was the Elbe River, where the city of Magdeburg guarded the approaches to Berlin. By now, the 203d was the only corps artillery attached to the 30th Division and 2d Armored. The reconnaissance parties for each battery were literally right behind the American armor when they would enter towns. Long lines of advancing American troops dominated the roads as streams of German prisoners passed them in the opposite direction. It was clear that the *Wehrmacht* was all but finished. Still, the war continued. On 13 April, a jeep from Service Battery was captured by a German patrol. The Germans shot the driver and took the motor officer captive.



Soldiers of the 203d FAB ride in one their battalion's M5 tractors during the Roer River crossings in late February 1945. The M5 served as the prime mover for the 203d's 155mm howitzers. (Arndt Family Collection)

The 203d FAB fired concentrations against Magdeburg on 17 April to break up German artillery that was pinning down U.S. armor. On 22 April, the battalion made radio contact with the Russians moving in from the east. The Allied pincer was closing on Germany.

Four days later, on 26 April, the 203d FAB fired its last rounds, receiving a few more back from the handful of German artillery pieces still in service. On 1 May, the battalion received word to halt on the Elbe and await the arrival of the Russians. A message arrived at battalion headquarters on 7 May at 1045: "Surrender of all enemy forces. Effective 090001 May 1945. Signed by General Eisenhower." The official surrender notice came the following day. The war was over.

In 318 days of combat, the 203d FAB lost nine men killed and fifty-two wounded. In the 1,450 miles from Normandy to Germany, the battalion had fired more than 68,000 rounds in the Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe campaigns. Broken down by averages, that accounts for eighteen rounds fired per gun per day.

The 203d then began occupation duty, moving from Vilbel to Jälsenstadt to Friedburg. From May until August, the battalion conducted patrols searching for weapons and contraband, enforced local curfews, and maintained law and order in its assigned area. Dozens of men with enough points towards discharge left the battalion to return home, until only about 120 men remained at the end of August. The 203d returned to the United States at the Port of Hampton Roads on 26 October 1945 and was inactivated the same day at Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia.

As was common of National Guard units returning after World War II, the 203d FAB that was returned to state control at greatly reduced in strength. However, veterans soon returned to their homes in Houlton, Presque Isle, Caribou, and Fort Fairfield in northern Maine and were joined by new recruits. In 1946, the 203d was redesignated the 152d FAB. Further reorganization would see it return to its first designation as 1st Battalion, 152d Field Artillery Regiment. In 2004, elements of the battalion were deployed to Iraq. The battalion's colors were cased in 2008, but the organization's lineage lives on in the 185th Engineer Support Company. [R]

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

First Lieutenant Jonathan Bratten is an engineer officer in the Maine Army National Guard, where he also serves as the organization's full-time historian. He has deployed in support of both foreign and domestic missions as an engineer officer, most recently to Afghanistan. Lieutenant Bratten holds an M.A. in History from the University of New Hampshire and resides happily with his wife in Portland, Maine.



George Crook began his Army career at the U.S. Military Academy in 1848 and graduated near the bottom of the Class of 1852. This photograph shows newly commissioned Second Lieutenant Crook (left) with Cadet Philip H. Sheridan (center) and Second Lieutenant John Nugen in 1852. (U.S. Military Academy Archives)

Major General George Crook

By Emily C.R. George

George Crook, the ninth of ten children to Thomas and Elizabeth Matthews Crook, was born on 8 September 1828 outside of Tylersville, Ohio. Growing up in the rural setting of eastern Ohio, George was not considered particularly bookish and his future livelihood was expected to be made through farming. However, in March 1848, his future took a dramatic turn when Congressman Robert P. Schenk interviewed young George in hopes of filling a vacancy for the Third Congressional District of Ohio at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. Crook began his military education in June of that year. Though now destined to be a soldier rather than a farmer, Crook continued to maintain his level of intellectual mediocrity, finishing thirty-eighth in his class of forty-three in 1852. He would be the lowest-ranking cadet to reach the rank of major general in the Regular Army.

After fighting Indians out west, Crook was ordered east in 1861 to serve in the Union Army, first as a regimental commander and then as the commander of a brigade in the Kanawha Division. He led his brigade at the Battles of South Mountain (shown here) and Antietam in September 1862. (Library of Congress)



THE BATTLE OF SOUTH MOUNTAIN, SEPTEMBER 14, 1862. ON POINT 23

James A. Greer, a classmate, described Crook as "a farmer's boy, slow to learn, but what he did learn was surely his. He was older, somewhat, than his comrades, and was good natured, stolid, and was like a big Newfoundland dog among a lot of puppies. He would never permit injustice, or bullying of smaller boys." As Crook's military career led him to be one of the most important officers involved with Indian affairs throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century, this description of his temperament would continue to be true, albeit take on a much more positive meaning.

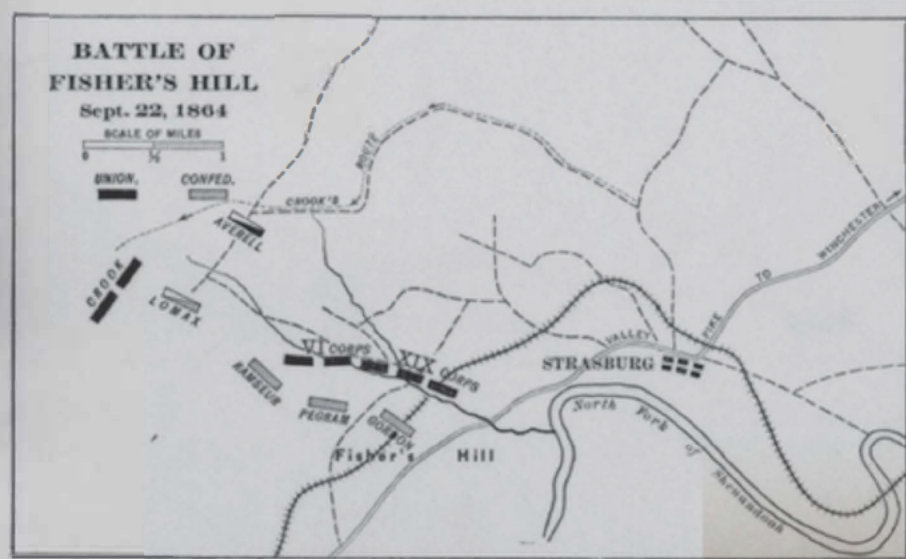
After graduation, brevet Second Lieutenant George Crook was assigned to Company F, 4th Infantry, on the Pacific Coast. Here he participated in a number of campaigns against Indians in the Pacific Northwest. He also began to form his knowledge and beliefs about the relationship between whites and Indians. In his autobiography, Crook would reflect on his initial observations of Indian relations, writing, "The trouble with the army was that the Indians would confide in us as friends... Then when they were pushed beyond endurance [by white settlers] and would go on the war path we had to fight when our sympathies were with the Indians." From the outset of his service in the West, Crook was developing a unique perspective on the role Indians could and should play within the larger American population.

Though Crook's military career, and arguably his entire life, would be defined by his work to quell violence between Indians and the ever encroaching white settlers in the West, the impending war between the Northern and Southern states would call Crook and his fellow soldiers serving on the frontier back east. In August 1861, Crook left San Francisco to join his Union comrades in their effort to reunite the nation. He was appointed colonel of the 36th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which had been organized at Fort Putnam in Marietta, Ohio, and was now stationed at Summerville, Virginia. Crook, letting his West Point education show itself, remarked of his fellow volunteers, "Officers as well as men knew nothing of what was expected of them. They thought all they had to do was fight, and thought that drill and discipline were entirely unnecessary."

Despite his lack of enthusiasm for the state of his unit, Crook served with distinction during a number of battles throughout the Civil War. The first real test of his leadership came at Lewisburg, Virginia, on 23 May 1862. His regiment's baptism of fire resulted in a Union victory, and Crook noted, "...old veterans could not have done better, for a more handsome victory was not gained during the war."

As the war raged on, Crook eventually received a promotion to brigadier general of volunteers on 7 September 1862. He commanded a brigade in the Kanawha Division, IX Corps, at South Mountain and Antietam in September 1862. Utilizing his experience fighting the less conventional battles against Indians in the Northwest, Crook separated himself further as a successful soldier through his skill of rooting out bushwhackers who were causing significant damage by robbing and killing travelers across West Virginia.

Throughout the war, Crook developed a close relationship with future president Rutherford B. Hayes, another Ohioan who served predominantly with the 23d Ohio. After the war, the two would remain close friends. Hayes's second son, Webb, became a sort of surrogate son to Crook, who had no children of his own. (Hayes's



Crook led the two-division Army of West Virginia during the Shenandoah campaign in the summer and fall of 1864. Crook's flank march and attack on the Confederate left at Fisher's Hill on 22 September unhinged the Rebel line and sent the Confederates fleeing south. (*Campaigns of the Civil War*, Civil War Maps Collection, Library of Congress)

fifth child, who only lived to the age of two, was named George Crook Hayes.) Eventually, former President Hayes would give the eulogy at Crook's funeral in 1890. Hayes continually spoke highly of Crook. As both were at Cloyd's Mountain on 9 May 1864, Hayes noted, "Altogether, this is our finest experience in the war, and General Crook is the best General we have served under, not excepting Rosecrans." Hayes would later write, "General Crook is the brains of this Army."

After suffering a stinging defeat while commanding Union forces at Second Kernstown on 24 July 1864, Crook would distinguish himself yet again in the late summer and fall of the same year as Union troops, led by Major General Philip Sheridan, were sent to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia to eliminate a Confederate army under Lieutenant General Jubal A. Early and seize control of the region. Beginning at Opequon Creek (Third Winchester), on 19 September, Crook proved vital to Union efforts in the Shenandoah campaign. Crook's two-division Army of West Virginia (sometimes mistakenly referred to as VIII Corps), remained in reserve until the battle was winding down, then bolstered the weakened XIX Corps and forced Early to retreat and regroup at Fisher's Hill about twenty miles to the south. In Crook's opinion, Sheridan's report of the action failed to account for Crook's role and gave full credit to the commander's own leadership. This started a grudge between the two officers, originally West Point classmates and friends, that would never fully mend.

On 20 September, after observing the strong

Rebel positions on Fisher's Hill, Sheridan ordered Crook's men to the woods north of Timber Creek, where they would be concealed from Early and his men. On 22 September, as VI Corps and XIX Corps moved on Early's front, Crook's divisions took advantage of the Rebel's unsecured left flank. Caught off guard, the Confederates were unable to train their guns in the direction of Crook's forces, who quickly turned the Rebel left and drove them from their positions. VI and XIX Corps soon joined the attack that routed Early's army.

The tension between Crook and Sheridan, however, was only amplified by the events at Fisher's Hill, as Sheridan, again apparently received more credit than he was due. In reflecting on the war in general, Crook would write, "I regret to say that I learned too late that it was not what a person did, but it was what he got the credit for doing that gave him a reputation and at the close of war gave him position." Despite his own complaints about the politics within the Army, by the end of the Civil War, Crook had proven himself an able officer and leader. On 21 October 1864, two days after the Union's decisive victory at Cedar Creek, he would be promoted to major general of volunteers.

On 21 February 1865, Crook was surprised by a small Rebel force in Cumberland, Maryland, and taken prisoner. He was briefly held at Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia, before he was exchanged about a month later. He later commanded a cavalry

division in the Army of the Potomac during the final stages of the Petersburg campaign as well as the pursuit of the Army of Northern Virginia to Appomattox.

On 22 August 1865 Crook married Mary T. Dailey. Mary is mentioned only briefly in Crook's writings, largely because they spent little of their married life together. While Crook was stationed out west following the Civil War, Mary spent most of her time at her family's estate near Oakland, Maryland. Even when Crook made trips back to Washington, DC, his visits to Oakland were brief at best.

As the nation worked to heal after the Civil War, both literally and figuratively, Crook was sent back west to once again take part in the still present "Indian problem." It was here that Crook would flourish as both an Army officer and negotiator between American Indians and white settlers. Having been mustered out of volunteer service in January 1866, Crook reverted back to his Regular Army rank of captain. In July, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel, assigned to the 23d Infantry, and sent to Boise, Idaho Territory. Here he observed, "Indian affairs could not well have been worse... Hostile Indians were all over that country, dealing death and destruction everywhere they wished."

For the next twenty months, Crook used his previous experiences in the West to conduct major operations against the Paiutes. Relying on Indian scouts from other tribes, Crook gained further insight into the battle tactics of the Indians. By the spring of 1868, the Paiutes were asking for peace. In these negotiations, as with many to come, Crook did not shy away from the reality of the serious threat facing Indians throughout the West. Although he did not want to see the complete destruction of the American Indian race, Crook would regularly draw attention to the overall futility of these western tribes trying to stop white Americans from usurping tribal lands. His unique attitude toward Indians, and his ability to incite fear and trust at the same time, served him well.

Following his success with the Paiutes, Crook's service was in high demand throughout the West. In 1871, President Ulysses S. Grant ordered Crook to Arizona, where Apache warriors were harassing settlers. By using his previous methods of handling Indian relations, Crook was again able to create relative peace in the area. In recognition for his success in the Southwest, Crook was promoted to brigadier general in the Regular Army in 1873. In March 1875, he was reassigned to the Department of the Platte, headquartered at Fort Omaha, Nebraska, an area long troubled by various Sioux tribes.

In 1876, Crook would suffer his one major defeat in his career in the West. On 17 June, Crook and his men met hostile Indians led by Crazy Horse and other leaders along Rosebud Creek. Though the hostiles eventually withdrew, allowing for a tactical victory for



Crook (seated, center) looks over a report with fellow general officers and Shenandoah campaign veterans (from left) Wesley Merritt, Philip H. Sheridan, James W. Forsyth, and George A. Custer, 2 January 1865. (Library of Congress)



Following the Civil War, Crook was sent west to fight Indians, including the Paiutes, Sioux, and Apaches. (Library of Congress)

Crook, strategically the battle had been a failure. Fearing further aggression from the Sioux, Crook and his men turned back to their base camp along Goose Creek in Wyoming Territory. The news of the disaster at Little Big Horn on 25-26 June only furthered the dismal view of Indian affairs at this time. In 1877, Colonel Nelson A. Miles would command the closing operations against the Sioux tribes while Crook returned to Fort Omaha to attend to administrative duties.

In 1879, while advocating for the War Department to reassume control over the Bureau of Indian Affairs (it had been transferred from the War Department to the Interior Department in 1869), Crook explained, "The Indian is a child of ignorance, and not all innocence. It requires a certain kind of treatment to deal with and develop him. One requisite in those who would govern him rightly is absolute honesty—a strict keeping of faith toward him. The other requisite is authority to control him, and that the means to enforce that authority be vested in the same individual." Crook proved to be the one man who could achieve this balance. During his service in the West, he would gain the name "Three Stars" among a number of tribes and was adamant in expressing his friendship with the Indians while still ready to fight those who threatened white Americans in the area. One can see his adept way of expressing friendship while

maintaining a underlying threat. In a letter to the Chiefs of the Sioux Nation on 17 December 1879, Crook wrote, "I am very glad to hear that you are well, and pleased to know that your hearts are good. I have been a friend to you and your people a long time, and have told the white man that you intend to live at peace with everybody. It makes my heart glad to hear from yourselves that this is so, and that I have spoken the truth about you..."

In all, Crook professed a desire to establish and sustain a semblance of peace throughout the frontier at whatever means possible. However, seeing the potential acculturation of the American Indian, he worked to obtain this peace without the complete obliteration of the race. He explained, "The Indians can be made self-sustaining, and they are willing to become so—all they want is the proper facilities and proper instruction. Of course, you have to use a little force."

In addition to this distinct view of the Indians, Crook's time in the West had also resulted in two innovations he would come to rely on heavily—the use of pack mules and Indian scouts. His use of pack animals allowed him and his men to traverse various terrains with ease and speed.

His belief in Indian scouts however, was not met with much enthusiasm among other Army leaders. Nevertheless, Crook saw great benefits for the Army as well as the scouts, explaining, "As a soldier, the Indian wears the uniform, draws pay and rations, and is in all respects on equal footing with the white man... Returning to his tribe after this service he is enabled to see beyond the old superstition that has governed his people, and thinks and decides for himself. It is a measure of humanity, and commends itself to us, as it shortens the war, and saves the lives of both white men and Indians."

Crook's opinions regarding Indian relations came into full form in this later period of his life. He became increasingly more outspoken about his opinions as well. He continued to champion the use of Indian scouts as well as the importance of acculturation of the Indians, to encourage them to be self-sustaining within the white man's world.

Crook's work, however, did not come without disagreement, particularly with other Army officers and government agencies. In July 1882, Crook assumed command of the Department of Arizona. When a band of Chiricahua Apaches, led by Geronimo fled their reservation on 17 May 1885, Crook's methods were called into question. In March 1886, Crook was able to corner Geronimo and his followers at Cañon de los Embudos in Sonora, Mexico. Crook, who had earned the nickname *Nantan Lupan* (Gray Wolf) by the Apaches as a mark of respect, was soon able to negotiate Geronimo's surrender. Unfortunately for Crook, on 28 March, Geronimo and some



ABOVE: In March 1886, Crook cornered Apache leader Geronimo in Sonora, Mexico, and persuaded him to surrender. Not long after agreeing to terms, Geronimo and some of his followers fled on 28 March, leading Sheridan, the Army's Commanding General at the time, to relieve Crook and replace him with Brigadier General Nelson A. Miles as commander of the Department of Arizona. (Library of Congress)

RIGHT: Crook is commemorated at Fort Omaha, Nebraska, with this bronze statue located in the garden of what is known as the Crook House. (National Register of Historic Places)



of his band changed their minds and decided to flee, and they managed to escape while under the watch of other Indian scouts. This incident gave more reason to question the loyalty of the Indian scouts Crook relied on so heavily. Sheridan placed Miles, now a brigadier general, in command of the campaign against the Apaches. Crook was relieved of command and reassigned to the Department of the Platte. The situation with Geronimo and the Apaches forever tarnished Crook's already strained relationship with both Miles and Sheridan.

In April 1888, President Grover Cleveland promoted Crook to major general. He was assigned to the Division of the Missouri, and he and his wife moved to Chicago. His health soon began declining, and a medical examination revealed irregularities in his heart and lung functions. Despite his poor health, Crook remained active in his duties, still concerned with the Indian question he had spent his life working to solve.

Crook suffered a heart attack and died on

21 March 1890 in his hotel suite in Chicago. Initially buried at Oakland, Maryland, his remains were transferred to Arlington National Cemetery in November of the same year. Reflecting on the general's recent death, his old and dear friend Rutherford B. Hayes described Crook as "a man of wonderful character and gifts. No seeker after popularity, he was loved by all sorts and conditions of men. With all of the essential and usual virtues of the soldier, he had modesty, sincerity, tenderness, absolute integrity, and veracity. He wears the double wreath—the soldier's and the humanitarian's." [R]

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THE USAREUR MUSEUM GALLERY

LUCIUS D. CLAY KASERNE

WIESBADEN, GERMANY

By Molly Bompant, Chief Curator, U.S. Army Europe

For the first time in its history, U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) has a dynamic interpretive space dedicated not only to the story of USAREUR, but to the presence of the U.S. Army in Europe dating back to World War I. The USAREUR Museum Gallery is one of two Army museum entities in Europe. It is also one of the few galleries within the Army Museum Enterprise that is embedded into a workplace. Established in May 2014 and located in the newly built General John M. Shalikashvili Mission Command Center (MCC) at USAREUR Headquarters on Lucius D. Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden, Germany, the USAREUR Museum Gallery was created out of interesting circumstances.

The idea for the museum gallery was conceptualized in 2013 during a time of fiscal austerity and budget sequestration. As USAREUR was nearing the end of its relocation from sixty-plus years at Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg, Germany, to the Wiesbaden Army Airfield (now Lucius D. Clay Kaserne), the Chief Curator, who was new to the position, was keenly aware that there was no museum and no plans or money for one. This challenging situation provided the unique opportunity to redefine the museum and for innovative thinking as to how to share USAREUR's history, artifacts, and archives in a manner that best utilized available space and resources.

In 2014, with the support of the Wiesbaden Mission Support Element's Director, space was made available for the opening of a historical exhibit in the MCC's first floor lobby. The space for this initial exhibit, right at the main entrance to the building, would become the location of the museum gallery's temporary exhibition area. This first exhibit, a diorama commemorating the seventieth anniversary of the 6 June 1944 D-Day landings in World War II, provided both visuals and text that facilitated understanding of the

strategic, operational, and tactical issues and impacts arising from that operation.

This temporary exhibition was soon followed by displays commemorating the seventieth anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge and finally the seventieth anniversary of the Liberation of Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, for which the USAREUR Curator partnered with the Patton Memorial in Pilsen, Czech Republic, to borrow and incorporate an original thirty-foot liberation flag from the 1945 Liberation Parade into the exhibit. The fourth exhibit highlighted a partnership that USAREUR has with the Point Alpha Memorial in the Fulda Gap and told the story of what was known as the "hot test place of the Cold War." The fifth exhibit commemorated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Persian Gulf War and highlighted USAREUR's VII Corps role as well as telling the story of the Battle of 73 Easting. The highlight of this exhibit was half of an almost full-scale M1 Abrams tank fabricated at the base woodshop.

The current temporary exhibit commemorates the seventieth anniversary of the German State of Hessen and highlights USAREUR's relationship with Hessen, where the headquarters resides, as well as its role in the creation of the state. This current exhibit was also previously displayed at a host nation location, the Hessen State Parliament in Wiesbaden. This was a first for USAREUR's Chief Curator and further strengthened USAREUR's partnership with host nation officials.

Having successfully demonstrated the ability to produce high quality exhibits at low cost using existing space in the workplace, the museum gallery concept gained momentum and evolved to consist of three different interpretive spaces within the public space of the MCC: a permanent museum gallery, temporary exhibit gallery, and



a current operations photograph exhibit of over thirty large-scale images. Each of these exhibit areas are adjacent to each other so that visitors can move between each area without feeling as though they have departed the museum gallery. Additionally, each interpretive space is upgraded or rotated on a six-month schedule in order to keep the spaces fresh and to highlight current and historical events.

In a mix of dioramas and cased exhibits, the permanent gallery, located in the basement of the MCC, details the history of the U.S. Army in Europe from the Army's arrival in 1917 during World War I, to the D-Day landings of World War II, the Army of Occupation post World War II, the Cold War, USAREUR's role in the first Persian Gulf War, the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan, and up through USAREUR's current operations in the Baltics. Within these eras are vignettes highlighting specific USAREUR stories, artifacts, and soldiers, as well as pivotal moments in USAREUR's history. One of the major themes present throughout the exhibition is the evolution of USAREUR's relationship with its host nation, Germany.

The permanent museum gallery was initially designed as an experimental exhibition space and has evolved to become a dynamic gallery that educates serving soldiers, civilians, and family members assigned to USAREUR. Providing a historic backdrop, the permanent gallery has become the "go-to" place where soldiers and civilians of all ranks host promotion, retirement, and award ceremonies, staff hail and farewells, professional educational and development discussions, and other events.

A key source of pride with the USAREUR Museum Gallery comes from the fact that the exhibits showcase the many great talents and resources found in the local military community. All of the display cases and metal work in the permanent gallery were

handcrafted by the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) master carpenters and metalsmiths. The assembly and hanging of much of the exhibits were accomplished by the DPW masons. Lastly, all of the printed graphics and the fabrication for the temporary exhibits were made with the assistance of the carpenter at the arts and crafts center, the DPW sign shop, and Vise Media. By working with the local resources, USAREUR was able to leverage talent and work within available resources and time to build exhibits with some frequency that are both professional and economical. Additionally, by using the existing infrastructure, manpower, and talent within the local community, the USAREUR Curator has grown a network of support that has made it possible for a one-person office to build a dynamic interpretive space that tells USAREUR's story while also showcasing the talents of the workforce. It is a museum presence that directly reflects the spirit and pace of the command, constantly evolving, learning, and doing more with less, and because this museum gallery is nested in the USAREUR workspace, one does not need to go far to be reminded of what it is that has made a Strong Army and an equally Strong Europe. [P]

Making a Visit:

The USAREUR Museum Gallery is located on Lucius D. Clay Kaserne in Erbenheim, Germany, just a few miles southeast of Wiesbaden. The Museum Gallery is open to ID card holders and tours can be arranged through the Curator at (49) 611143-537-0130 or molly.a.bompane.civ@mail.mil.

BATTLE OF THIRD WINCHESTER

19 SEPTEMBER 1864

// Every man's saber was waving above his head,
and with a savage yell, we swept down upon the
trembling wretches like a besom of destruction. //

A trooper from the 19th New York Cavalry (1st Dragoons) describing the final cavalry charge against the Confederate left at the Battle of Third Winchester (Opequon), 19 September 1864. The Union attack smashed the Confederate lines and sent the Rebels under Lieutenant General Jubal A. Early fleeing through the streets of Winchester and south up the Shenandoah Valley to Fisher's Hill near Strasburg, Virginia.



Sheridan's Final Charge at Winchester, by Thure de Thulstrup
(Chromolithograph by Louis Prang & Company, Library of Congress)

GROUNDBREAKING—A MAJOR MUSEUM MILESTONE!

The U.S. Army's top civilian and military leaders joined Generals Gordon Sullivan, USA-Ret., and William Hartzog, USA-Ret., the Army Historical Foundation's Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively, for the 14 September 2016, official groundbreaking ceremony of the National Museum of the United States Army near the Fort Belvoir Golf Course on the installation's North Post.

"We have waited 241 years and three months—86,116 days to be exact—for this moment," said Eric K. Fanning, Secretary of the Army, in addressing over 300 supporters of the Museum project.

Fanning said the long wait was understandable since it is nearly impossible to separate the Army's storied 241 year history from the history of our nation.

**"We have waited 241 years
and three months—86,116
days to be exact—for
this moment..."**

The Honorable Eric Fanning,
Secretary of the Army

Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel Dailey, Army Chief of Staff General Mark Milley, Army Historical Foundation (AHF) Chairman General Gordon Sullivan, USA Ret., Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations, Environment & Energy) Katherine Hammack, and AHF Vice Chairman General William Hartzog, USA-Ret. (Photograph by Frank Ruggles)



GROUNDBREAKING —A MAJOR MUSEUM MILESTONE!

The Museum, located on eighty-four publicly accessible acres of Fort Belvoir, is scheduled to be completed in 2019. Its 186,000 square feet will showcase hundreds of the Army's 30,000 artifacts, documents, and images never before seen by the American public, and many of the 15,000 pieces of soldier artwork from the Army Art Collection. The Museum is expected to attract 500,000 to 750,000 visitors annually.

Addressing ceremony attendees, Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning noted, "The Museum will make it possible for more Americans to see how closely the history of their nation and the history of their Army are intertwined."

A series of chronological and thematic galleries will depict what soldiers do in times of both war and peace.

The three main galleries will be Soldiers' Stories, Fighting for the Nation, and Army and Society. The Fighting for the Nation Gallery will be broken down into six sub-galleries that cover different periods in the Army's history starting with the Revolutionary War and including the most recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The outside areas of the Museum campus will include a memorial garden, amphitheater, parade ground, and Army trail. Outdoor space is being planned to accommodate ceremonies, reenactments, lectures, educational programs, and other events.

"This Museum is going to offer everyone—all Americans, free of charge—an experience that you cannot find in the pages of a history book or on Google," said General Mark Milley, Army Chief of Staff.

Milley noted that although you can Google a lot about American and Army history, you can never really connect the two "unless you can see the weapons they [soldiers] used, the uniforms they wore, the stories they told, the letters they wrote, the equipment that kept them alive—and understand how the Army prepared for and fought in war and conflicts around the world."

Milley added that the Museum will remind the public of what it means to be a soldier, what it means to serve with incredible pride, and also convey "the cost and the pain of the sacrifice of war, not in dollars, but in lives."

The ceremony also included brief remarks by family members of three of the soldiers who will be featured in the Museum—First Lieutenant Ashley White Stumpf, Staff Sergeant Donald "Dutch" Hoffman, and Brigadier General Leo Brooks, Sr.

In his welcoming comments, former Army Chief of Staff General Gordon Sullivan, USA-Ret., said the Museum is meant to "tell the comprehensive history





Army Chief of Staff General Mark Milley. (Photograph by Kathleen Holt)

of the Army as it finally deserves to be told, including all components of the Army as well as the Continental Army, which existed even before birth of the United States.”

According to Sullivan, as the capstone of the Army Museum Enterprise, the intent is to evolve the Museum as a “virtual ‘Museum without Walls,’” a world-class educational platform linked technologically with the network of every Army museum in the Army Museum enterprise as well as the Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC) at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Before leading Fanning, Milley, Hartzog, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations, Environment & Energy) Katherine Hammack, and Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel Dailey to join him in turning the first shovels full of earth to signal the inevitability of the Army’s future national landmark, Sullivan thanked the scores of corporations, foundations, and more than 146,000 individual donors who have supported the project to date.

General Sullivan concluded, “The campaign isn’t over yet. We still have a way to go, but I want to add my deep personal thanks to those of you who have got us to this significant milestone. This Museum is going to be a very special landmark and an American treasure that you can take pride in helping to create.” RJ

General Sullivan addresses a crowd of 300 Museum supporters. (Photograph by Bob Knudsen)



Captain Jason Stumpf, who spoke on behalf of his late wife First Lieutenant Ashley White Stumpf, with General Sullivan and former Virginia Congressman Jim Moran. (Photograph by Frank Ruggles)



Former Chiefs “all in” on Museum

Ten former Army Chiefs of Staff whose continuous Army service spanned sixty-five consecutive years have rallied in support of the National Museum of the United States Army.

From the most senior of the living former Chiefs—General Edward C. “Shy” Meyer, whose active career began in 1951, to General Raymond T. Odierno, who retired in August 2015—all have made generous contributions toward construction of the National Army Museum.

Those who served consecutively as Chiefs between Meyer and Odierno include Generals John A. Wickham Jr., Carl E. Vuono, Gordon R. Sullivan, Dennis J. Reimer, Eric K. Shinseki, Peter J. Schoomaker, George W. Casey, Jr., and Martin E. Dempsey. Dempsey subsequently served as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from October 2011 until September 2015.

Meyer’s name was the first of the former Chiefs’ names to appear among the Capital Campaign’s Circles of Distinction, reserved for contributors of \$50,000 and more. Others have followed suit, with Odierno being the last.

“It seems only proper that those of us who led in the Army should also take the lead in ensuring that this great Museum is successfully completed,” said General Gordon Sullivan, USA-Ret., Army Historical Foundation Chairman, who is now spearheading the Capital Campaign. “As former Army Chiefs of Staff, we have made our commitments, and now that we have broken ground and site preparation for the Museum is underway, we are hoping others will join us in helping to complete this long-overdue tribute to our Army and its Soldiers,” Sullivan added. *RJ*

“It seems only proper that those of us who have led in the Army should also the lead in ensuring that this great Museum is successfully completed...”

General Gordon Sullivan, USA-Ret.
Army Historical Foundation Chairman

General Gordon Sullivan, USA-Ret., AHF Chairman, explains National Army Museum model design features to General Raymond T. Odierno, USA-Ret., 38th Army Chief of Staff (left), as Brigadier General Creighton W. Abrams, Jr., USA-Ret., AHF Executive Director, looks on. (Photograph by Frank Ruggles)



THE ARMY HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Membership



The Army Historical Foundation's charter is to preserve, promote, and present U.S. Army history and the heritage of the American Soldier. Membership is open to individuals interested in preserving the heritage of the American Soldier. All memberships are tax-deductible. AHF is a member-based, non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization.



We look forward to welcoming you to our ranks!

What we do...

Historical Preservation

The Army Historical Foundation has supported several historic preservation projects, including restoration



of the 20th Maine battle flag used at Gettysburg. The Foundation provides grants to Army museums for use in preservation projects and serves as a facilitator for donations of artifacts to the National Museum of the United States Army.

The National Museum of the United States Army

The Foundation, as part of a public/private partnership with the Department of the Army, is raising \$200 million for the construction of the National Museum of the United States Army. AHF members will receive invitations to special events and ceremonies as well as discounts to museum activities. The Founding Sponsor and 1814 Society programs are Capital Campaign related programs and are not a part of the AHF membership program.



Writing Awards & Historical Inquiries

The AHF annual writing awards program recognizes outstanding books and articles that make a significant contribution to the historical literature of the Army. The Foundation provides research assistance to members, students and the general public, answering hundreds of inquiries annually.

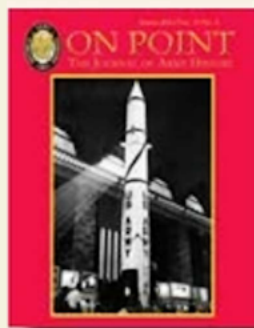
Staff Rides & Special Events

The Foundation's popular staff ride program takes AHF members and guests to battlefields such as Antietam, Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, and Petersburg, and provides a detailed overview of each engagement. AHF members are also invited to the Lemnitzer Lecture series and other events across the country, which feature speakers discussing various topics on U.S. Army history and policy.



Publications

The Foundation produces a quarterly publication, *On Point*, which provides articles on Army history, book reviews, and other features. The Foundation also published *U.S. Army: A Complete History*, a comprehensive and lavishly illustrated book on the history of the Army.



TO JOIN

- See the enclosed membership form for details or for more information call or email our Membership Director, Hoa McNabb at 703-562-4163 or hoa.mcnaabb@armyhitory.org

Use the enclosed remittance envelope to join today!

All members receive quarterly issues of *On Point: The Journal of Army History*, a member pin, and bumper sticker. Benefits also include an opportunity to receive advanced notice of programs and events such as staff rides and the Lemnitzer Lecture series, discounts for our online museum shop, and up-to-date news on the National Museum of the United States Army. The premiums listed on the enclosed remittance envelope are only applicable to new AHF Members.

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- > Member (\$25 Annual Donation)
- > Sustaining Member (\$50 Annual Donation)
- > Charter Member (\$100 Annual Donation)
- > Life Member (\$1,500 Donation)

An Orphan Weapon System: One Battalion's Saga of Operationalizing the Lance Missile in U.S. Army Europe

By Colonel Woolf Gross, USA-Ret.

The MGM-52 Lance tactical ballistic missile entered service with the U.S. Army in 1972 and replaced the MGR-1 Honest John rocket. (National Archives)

The operational life of the MGM-52 Lance missile system spanned the relatively brief period between the wind-down of the Vietnam War and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Its major deployment during this period was in U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR). The conventional artillerymen within the two corps comprising Seventh Army, V Corps and VII Corps, were never sure how to fit this somewhat exotic weapon into the jigsaw puzzle of fire support against a putative assault by the Soviet Army into western Europe against NATO. In fact, they may have breathed a sigh of relief when it was withdrawn in the early 1990s following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact.

The technical and tactical story of the two-decade active life of Lance was detailed in an earlier edition of *On Point* (Winter 2016). What follows is a more personal narration of one of the charter Lance battalion's efforts to integrate the "orphan" into the full fabric of the NATO plan for the defense of Europe in the Cold War from November 1973 to July 1974.

Though designated as a tactical artillery system, Lance's range bordered on the strategic—about seventy-five miles, or well into the heartland of then-Soviet-controlled territory. Other extended range missiles of the time, the Sergeant and Pershing, were held at Army level, while Lance camped out with the tube artillery at corps level. Despite the fact that Lance could "shoot-and-scoot" with the tubes, the conventional cannon-cockers pretty much viewed Lance as the poor stepchild.

Corps and divisional artillery of the period and place did their major training and live firing at the major training areas of Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, and Baumholder. With its much longer range, Lance units were told that they were not welcome as they cluttered up the much-coveted training areas with dry firing. That said, the Lance commanders were effectively told that they were

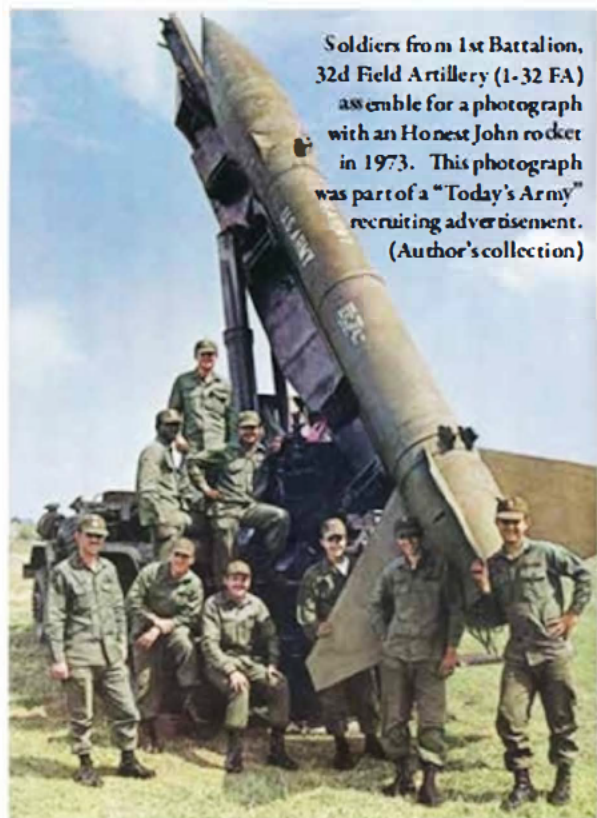


on their own for essential field training.

For the Lance battalions, the old adage "when confronted with lemons, make lemonade" became the unofficial order of the day. This is the story of how one battalion, the "Proud Americans" of 1st Battalion, 32d Field Artillery (1-32 FA), coped and, indeed, thrived. The Proud Americans had another unusual asset going for them, namely an unorthodox arrangement within the scope of the German-American Partnership Program.

The assigned tactical mission for artillery units was nuclear and conventional general support of the southern portion of the V Corps sector facing the Warsaw Pact forces in East Germany, an area more commonly known as the Fulda Gap. But how were Lance units to train for this mission given the denial of access to USAREUR's major training areas and the "absolute" prohibition on maneuver in the assigned emergency positions? Field rendezvous locations were used over and over again in response to repetitive "alerts" and were well-known to the minions of the Soviet Military Liaison Mission (the SMLM—they of the notorious and ubiquitous red license plates), but positions to be occupied in a real emergency were "classified."

Faced with this dilemma, the Proud Americans sought from higher headquarters and received dispensation to train on a routine basis "in sector" based upon the thesis that potential firing locations, unlike those of conventional tube artillery, would each be used only once and would be so numerous that secrecy would be less of a problem. The battalion



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 32d Field Artillery (1-32 FA) assemble for a photograph with an Honest John rocket in 1973. This photograph was part of a "Today's Army" recruiting advertisement. (Author's collection)



The 1-32 FA commander, Lieutenant Colonel Woolf Gross, prepares to drive a Lance vehicle off of a railcar at Fliegerhorst Kaserne, West Germany, in early 1974. Gross was the only one in the battalion licensed to drive the Lance vehicles after having graduated from the Lance Conversion Course at Fort Sill Oklahoma. (Author's collection)

thus set about detailed familiarization with every highway byway, and wooded area from the Main River to north of the Vogelsberg hill massif from the city of Fulda to Frankfurt and westward. Learning the environment in which the battalion might have to operate became a veritable fixation for battery and battalion survey parties as well as commanders and leaders down to the six table of organization and equipment launching sections.

1-32 FA had been an Honest John battalion whose transition to Lance was initiated by a routine change of command. Coincidentally, late 1973 marked the Army's switch from the draft as the significant source of enlisted strength to the "all-volunteer force." This phenomenon created its own problems. Incoming troops proved to be better motivated than their conscripted predecessors, but with generally lesser educational background. While the latter had longer service obligations which made for somewhat greater stability, it took a little longer to qualify the soldiers in the intricacies of the new missile system that was itself more complicated than the Honest John.

Logistical support for the Honest John had begun to deteriorate with a concomitant impact on troop morale, and the arrival of Lance was still "just over the horizon." The challenge to the new commander and his staff was how to motivate the troops who would form the new Lance cadre while making effective use of the "old-timers" transitioning out. Two tracks presented themselves. One was the institution and launching of a vigorous reconnaissance effort to identify and locate Lance-specific launching positions and travel route thereto, and the other was adaptation of existing Honest John-related hardware to simulate the significantly different Lance tactical requirements. The reconnaissance track was reasonably straightforward, the simulation track was more complicated.

Both tracks depended upon early accumulation of certain Lance-specific items of equipment that might (or might not) have become available in theater. One end item in this respect was a theodolite (basically a surveyors' angle-determining instrument) manufactured in Switzerland that might have come directly from the supplier rather than through the supply chain that led back to the continental United States. This piece of equipment was essential to the operation and training of the surveyor teams that would transfer directly from the Honest John. A variant theodolite was also the key instrument used to lay the Lance for direction at the launch point. In this latter role, it was reasoned, the theodolite could immediately supplant the extant (and more primitive) aiming circle used to lay the Honest John for direction, thus getting a head start on sighting the Lance for direction.

The battalion S-4 took it as a challenge to locate as many theodolites as possible in the short term in the USAREUR supply chain. This was not an easy task since it required subversion of the in-theater logistical system as an irate telephone call from a depot commander would underscore. That individual called to inquire whether "a Captain Todd" was a member of the battalion. When told that Captain Todd was indeed the 1-32 FA supply officer, the depot commander indicated that said captain was sitting on his desk and would not leave until the desired theodolites were located and duly signed over. Miraculously, the instruments were produced and Captain Todd returned to Hanau triumphant. Other available bits and pieces of Lance-peculiar kit were similarly located permitting about



This photograph shows a typical "hide/fire" position for a loaded Lance self-propelled launcher (SPL) as developed by 1/32 FA in a German forest preserve. The northern European evergreen forests provided near-ideal cover from aerial surveillance the year around. (Author's collection)



The battalion commander joins Battery C commander, Captain Paul Passaro, and one of his platoon leaders in a reconnaissance and site selection of launch positions in one of West Germany's state forests. (Author's collection)

a two-month head start on training for the conversion.

Though impacting only a limited segment of the battalion cadre, the lay-in of surveying equipment underwrote an intensive and extensive reconnaissance of what would become the battalion's area of operation. Land navigation, an effort that was not beholden to either the Honest John or Lance, became a fixation for everyone from battalion commander to the "13 Bravos" (the basic military occupational specialty designator of all field artillerymen) who would be staying on during the conversion. "Tactical tourism" became practically an obsession, with the resultant uplift in morale a refreshing side benefit. By the time the Proud Americans took possession of the essential Lance end-items, many, if not most, unit tactical positions had been identified, surveyed, and committed to record.

While the mission—and training for it—was always the principal focus, the morale and welfare of the troops were important challenges. The changeover from draft to all-volunteer has already been mentioned, but the period of the mid 1970s in USAREUR was also one of near-epidemic drug abuse that added to the challenge. Here again, the obligation to train in sector came to the rescue.

The novelty of a shiny new system and the focus on operating over the very terrain on which the combat mission might have to be performed proved to be major assets. Adding to the extensive and intensive reconnaissance effort, the battalion developed a training program that would have almost everyone in the field developing Lance tactics—there was no "book" or, for that matter, experience providing useful guidance in this regard—an average of a week to ten days virtually every month. This approach kept the cadre from developing the notorious "barracks rat" mentality affecting some of USAREUR's otherwise capable organizations. The average Proud American actually looked forward to "hitting the field."

The initial stages of this program were undertaken using the extant Honest John hardware which made for a clumsy *ersatz* situation; soldiers had to pretend that the cumbersome truck-mounted Honest John launcher was actually the smaller and much more agile Lance tracked equipment. The soldiers of 1-32 FA likened themselves to a prize fighter who trained with weights on his ankles, and that when Lance arrived we would already know what to do and it would be that much easier.

With little advance warning, that day arrived. A train arrived on the Fliegerhorst Kaserne siding with virtually all the Lance-peculiar tracked vehicles. The train commander contacted the battalion property book officer indicating that the materiel needed to be off-loaded at once and that Lance-licensed drivers would be required to do the job. That second requirement caused a major flap: absent any tracked vehicles in the battalion Honest John inventory, there were no track vehicle drivers assigned... save one! The battalion commander, a graduate of the Lance Conversion Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, had been trained and duly licensed as part of the curriculum.

With a cheering section of budding missileers and other curious personnel assembled at the siding, the new commander gingerly jockeyed more than a dozen tracked vehicles off the train and onto Fliegerhorst terra firma to rousing cheers (and jeers!) and photographs taken for posterity. Problem solved.

Lance training then began in earnest. Small reconnaissance and survey parties cruising the German countryside in a few jeeps attracted very little attention and caused few problems. The movement of entire batteries or the entire battalion, especially with numerous tracked vehicles, however, came with a host of challenges. The Proud Americans anticipated these problems, launching a meet-and-greet

campaign to touch base with *forstmeisters*, farmers, and village leaders throughout the area in which the battalion anticipated requiring maneuver rights. Taking the lead in this effort was the responsibility of the battalion operations and intelligence section, more specifically, the S-2 sergeant, a one-of-a-kind gem named Sergeant First Class Jim Coleman. Though not true, it was rumored that Coleman had landed with the troops on D-Day and never left Europe.

Married to a German woman, the gregarious and fluent German speaker Coleman, it seemed, was on intimate terms with everybody who was anybody in the State of Hesse. Alone, or more usually with a delegation, he made it his business to connect with these movers-and-shakers to pave the way for 1-32 FA's ensuing ubiquity on large swaths of land between the outskirts of Frankfurt and the Fulda Gap.

Among the many Coleman stories was his contribution to a dilemma caused by a decision taken at a much higher headquarters. For whatever reason, USAREUR had decided to economize by eliminating maps at a scale of 1:50,000, the very ones deemed essential to Lance operations over the planned extensive area of operations. What to do? One of Coleman's contacts was the president of a local *Sparkasse* (community savings bank). A meet-and-greet had been set up with this person as part of the public relations effort. For some reason, the map problem arose in that meeting. The banker indicated that one of the giveaways offered to his clients was a 1:50,000-scale map of a fairly extensive area of Hesse. The next day, a courier delivered a large carton of these charts to battalion headquarters. Sufficient in both quality and quantity, the "Sparkasse Map" became the chart of choice for land navigation. In addition to detailing roads, and even forest trails, it highlighted terrain features that later became coded checkpoints for battalion movements and even *Gasthauses*



A CH-47C Chinook helicopter lifts off with a Lance SPL attached for the 150 kilometer transit from Hanau to the *Luftwaffe* Rocket Artillery School in Geilenkirchen. This was the first (and possibly the only) such flight combination of the tracked launch vehicle and the Chinook helicopter under simulated tactical conditions. (Author's collection)

(off-limits)

A quantity of these maps was numbered and assigned to various battalion activities. A master checkpoint list was developed, and though it was not formally classified, was treated as "privileged" information within the battalion. Surveyed battery and firing point locations were consciously omitted from the *Sparkasse* Map project and recorded on scale 1:25,000 Army Map Service charts that were classified and protected as such. The battalion and battery survey parties created and maintained a card file of firing point information, also classified, and stored appropriately as adjuncts to the Battalion Emergency Deployment Plan. That plan was eventually highlighted in the report of the ensuing general inspection by the V Corps Inspector General.

With the 1-32 FA Lance training program implemented, the battalion established several events as short-term goals. Mission certification required the battalion to pass muster via an on-the-ground ATT (Army Training Test) administered by V Corps Artillery Headquarters, a nuclear weapons certification by the Defense Nuclear Agency, and the live firing of the Lance by each launcher section at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. The battalion also imposed its own short-term goal: a gala demonstration and parade on the co-located army airfield to celebrate Lance activation.

"Lance Comes to Fliegerhorst" occurred within six weeks of program initiation. Invitations had been sent to commanders within the Hanau Military Community local German officialdom, contacts in the German *Bundeswehr*, and representatives of forces in the adjoining French sector. The leadership of the German Rocket Artillery School in Geilenkirchen was also invited (the *Bundeswehr* was considering procurement of Lance at the time). Many of the invitees actually showed up to be hosted by the V Corps Artillery Commander, Brigadier General Willard Scott. The battalion commander introduced the Lance system to the gathering in English, German, and French to considerable applause by the international visitors and some derision from "others." Music was provided by the V Corps Band, both as a warm-up and to accompany the pass-in-review by both personnel and the shiny new equipment. The event was considered a significant public relations success and garnered reportage in *Stars and Stripes*.

Later in the spring of 1974 and as a direct result of attendance at the Fliegerhorst demonstration, the Commandant of the *Raketenschule* sent a formal invitation to 1-32 FA: could the battalion organize a Lance demonstration at the school in Geilenkirchen? Battalion bounced the idea off V Corps Public Affairs and received an enthusiastic "go for it" (and left the details to the battalion). Then came the hard part. Geilenkirchen, near Aachen, is approximately 150 kilometers from Hanau, so a plan for getting the better part of a firing battery that distance had to be developed. Road travel was out of the question, as was railway shipment via the *Deutsche Bundesbahn*. Someone suggested enlisting U.S. Air Force C-130s for the task, after all both Fliegerhorst (a *Luftwaffe* fighter base during World War II) and the German school had adequate runways. Unfortunately, our sister service was not interested.

Battalion logisticians came up with the idea of a helilift, after all, during the several intervening months, the Proud Americans had



The Proud Americans demonstrate the basic Lance launch system at the *Luftwaffe* Rocket Artillery School in 1974. The operation significantly influenced the *Bundeswehr's* decision to acquire the Lance system. (Author's collection)

practiced rotary wing operations as part of the comprehensive training program and had established good working relations with USAREUR heavy lift organizations. Problem solved... and then came the over-reach! The Germans wanted an entire Lance fire unit, including two tracked vehicles, a lightweight launcher, and associated wheeled vehicles as well as complete training rounds. The field manual on Lance helilift operations covered only the wheeled lightweight launcher!

On the appointed day, a rigging team from the helicopter unit arrived along with four CH-47Cs, the newest model of the Boeing Chinook. When told that there was no approved rigging specification for the tracked vehicles, the riggers responded that they would "wing it," based upon a very limited test of airlifting the M113 armored personnel carrier. And that is what they did.

To make matters more challenging, someone had alerted *Stars and Stripes*, which turned up fully prepared to photograph the mission for posterity. With the battalion staff watching with fingers crossed, Battery C-minus took off for north Germany with three of the choppers dangling large loads underneath for flights over the major concentration of the West German population. It all went without a hitch and was covered in the next day's *Stars and Stripes*.

The two-day demo at the school included static displays and the aerial delivery of the entire launcher section deposited in front of the reviewing stands and prepared for action with aplomb. The Germans loved it and coverage in the local German newspaper was lavish. The Proud Americans were treated like visiting royalty by the school. More importantly, the *Bundeswehr* bought enough missiles, launchers, and other equipment for four Lance battalions.

Preparation for and execution of this unusual event did not interfere materially with ongoing mission training. During the ensuing months, the battalion deployed on planned and unplanned field train-

ing exercises (FTXs) over an extended area of Hesse. One carryover from the excursion to the *Raketenschule* was a useful contact with the USAREUR heliport operation. These assets were tapped whenever possible to support the recurrent FTXs to sharpen the air movement capability of the Lance system, though not any repeats of the "non-standard" movement of assigned tracked vehicles.

Always of concern in the planning for field training was the possibility that they would become so routine that they would cease to challenge unit flexibility and interest. Whether it was attributable to the jungle telegraph reporting that the Proud Americans were doing extensive field training locally or active proselytizing of nearby military organizations to expand the orbit, other non-Lance accretions began to happen. Among the first was the co-located corps support OV-1 Mohawk aerial reconnaissance unit, the 334th Aviation Company. The Mohawks were drawn in to monitor battalion observance of field camouflage tactics and techniques. The Mohawks also simulated air attacks on battery and launch sites. The 334th's overhead photography capability was tapped to sharpen after action critiques. As time passed and Proud American fieldcraft improved, a point was reached when the Mohawks were unable to find the Lance positions despite being provided with a general area of search.

The bogeyman of all field training in USAREUR was "maneuver damage": tearing up the pristine fields and forests of the German countryside. Since use of those same forests and fields had become the lifeblood of Lance field training, the battalion sought the cooperation of the Hanau-based 23d Engineer Battalion whose assets thus became the clean-up crew for the missilemen. It was a symbiotic relationship. The engineers got to do their thing with the Proud Americans making all the arrangements, including road clearances, support for the participating troops, and other missions. They built a reputation with the farmers and the *forstmeisters* for leaving the real estate as they found it and often better. In fact, the landowners actually volunteered their property to enjoy the "free" upgrades that often were the result.

The Proud Americans availed themselves of the services of the 3d Armored Division's air defense assets, taking to the field with the track-mounted "quad-fifties" whose vehicles were similar to the Lance tracks. The air defenders provided welcome perimeter coverage against both ground and air attack. Occasionally, rifle squads of 3d Armored's infantry units were tapped to augment local security.

The battalion's training planners began to compete with one another to widen the aperture of participant units in the regular field training. Eventually, 1-32 FA's FTXs became so popular that the operations were in danger of taking on the proportions of "a three-ring circus" in the view of one local observer. One idea was the possible recruitment of a pontoon bridge company stationed to the south of Hanau along the Rhine River. The mission would have been the erection of a bridge

to shorten logistics of missile resupply across the Main River. The challenges of arranging waterway closure on the busy artery and other associated problems, however, determined that the plan would constitute, quite literally, a bridge too far.

One of the more exotic ancillary participants in the longer battalion FTXs was a quartermaster bath unit. It is still unknown how this organization found its way into the program, but it proved to be a great morale booster. Part of its attraction was, of course, its obvious contribution to physical health and welfare, but the novelty value was important: the troops had bragging rights at home base.

A peculiarity of repetitive training in the German countryside, as opposed to regular use of one of the closed major training areas, was the parasitic shadow from "the other side": the denizens of the Soviet Military Liaison Mission (SMLM), known colloquially as the "smellums." Every USAREUR soldier carried pocket card with a depiction of the distinctive red-and-yellow license plate and the injunction to report a sighting incident to higher headquarters. The Proud Americans acquired an SMLM shadow early on that was inevitably parked in the woods near a battalion field facility. Each sighting was dutifully reported and, over time, the shadow became more and more careless about concealment.

Finally, the battalion S-2 decided to take the bull by the horns. An emissary was sent to the offending SMLM Mercedes that had blatantly taken station just outside the battalion command post. Though the pocket card instructions forbade direct contact with the Russians, the emissary invited the two gentlemen to join the battalion staff for lunch. Without further ado, the smellums departed the area at high speed and were never seen again, thus constituting a small victory for our side in the Cold War.

Much of 1-32 FA's repetitive field activity attracted little attention either from higher headquarters or from the surrounding Ger-

man population, the latter having gotten used to sharing their roads and countryside with the American military. The "higher ups," it seemed, confined their visits to a level or two down the chain. That seeming invisibility was interrupted during one of the battalion's field outings by the short-notice visit of the Deputy V Corps Commander, Major General Frederick "Fritz" Kroesen (later a four star general and commander of USAREUR), who picked the middle of an execrable German winter to spend a snowy afternoon "in field conditions."

Another out-of-the-ordinary visitor was the Lance program manager from U.S. Army Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama. Billed as a "liaison

visit," then-Colonel Grayson Tate (later a major general) chose to spend a day with the Proud Americans during the later stages of the run-up to certification. His primary interest was problems encountered—and solutions developed—during the training phase. In the "solutions" category, the battalion had developed certain field fixes to Lance-peculiar hardware responding to perceived shortcomings



The 1/32 commander and S-3 watch the Lance demonstration with the *Luftwaffe* Rocket Artillery School commandant in 1974. The event was extensively covered in the local press, who described it as a prime example of cooperation between the U.S. military and its (then) West German counterparts. (Author's collection)

or as work-saving mods. These included the installation of double wheels on the airmobile launcher and integral telephone wire reels on the self-propelled launcher. Such field modifications were strictly prohibited. The extrawheels on the light launcher responded to a dangerous tendency to tip over when a loaded launcher was maneuvered into firing position. Colonel Tate, rather than writing up the Proud Americans for the transgressions, issued a written designation of the battalion as a "test and trial" organization charged with transmitting periodic reports and recommendations to the project office.

Most USAREUR units participated in the "Partnerschaft" program that paired American units with more-or-less equivalent organizations in the German *Bundeswehr*. In that respect, 1-32 FA was no different. Whereas regular units of the *Bundeswehr* were located in the more northerly areas of West Germany, making interactions with their U.S. counterparts infrequent at best, the Proud Americans were linked to a local reserve holding detachment in the Frankfurt area, VBK43. Though not as impressive as a pairing with a front-line *Bundeswehr* organization, the relationship proved to be a winning combination with impacts on everything from morale and welfare to primary mission training.

VBK43's membership encompassed a wide range of personnel from oldtimers from the World War II-era *Wehrmacht* (suitably "de-Nazified", of course) to younger men relieved from active duty. Most of its members were actively involved in the civilian community, but all were gung-ho for defense of the fatherland. For many, 1-32 FA became their vicarious military connection.

Most of the joint activities occurred on weekends, off time for both organizations. Initially, the junior U.S. enlisted soldiers were reluctant participants, preferring to visit the local *Gasthauses* that often led to incidents reflecting negatively on the American forces. The GIs were not particularly enthusiastic about the obligatory small arms qualification trips to the area firing ranges. That reluctance carried over to the VBK43 offers of similar events on a local German range. On the first few Saturday mornings, such events were sparsely attended. Then the word got around—shooting with the Germans was fun! Several hours of camaraderie included range-firing

of the G3 assault rifle, the Israeli designed Uzi submachine gun, and the MG43 light machine gun. Each outing provided the opportunity for the Proud Americans to qualify for the gaudy "Schützenschnur" qualification badge with tassel that was authorized for wear on the class A uniform in-theater. Before long, formal battalion formations saw an array of *Schützenschnurs* looking like something out of the operetta *The Student Prince*. Adding to the attraction of the *Bundeswehr* range outings was the set-piece lunch at a local *Gasthaus*—beer included—underwritten by VBK43.

The German unit also had set up an "orienteering" course in a nearby forest. Proud Americans were paired with VBK43 members for Saturday competitions with prizes for the winners. Though this fieldcraft training was only distantly connected with the principal Lance mission, it added significantly to unit *esprit de corps* and enhanced self-confidence within both organizations.

A focal event within the VBK43 partnership was the German unit's annual participation in the Swiss Army-sponsored two-day military march over the foothills of the Alps. Though lacking the cachet of the similar four-day event sponsored by NATO in Nijmegen, Holland, it was highly regarded among the various European military communities. The event, coincidentally scheduled over the last weekend in May (Memorial Day weekend), consisted of a fifty-mile "stroll" over more challenging terrain than found around Nijmegen. The German partners invited the Proud Americans to constitute a bi-national march unit for the event in 1974.

Some thirty Redlegs broke with their penchant for motor

A Proud Americans Lance launch section prepares for a live-fire test under the watchful eyes of the Missile Command's test-and-evaluation representatives (in berets) at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. The live firings constituted the final qualification for the firing units of the battalion in 1974. (Author's collection)





This photograph shows a close-up of final preparations for live launch of a Lance missile under test conditions at White Sands Missile Range. 1-32 FA fired six missiles as part of the final certification of the battalion, all of which hit within the required circular probable error for the system. (Author's collection)

transport to cooperate with a like number of VBK43 members to march in full field uniform through quaint villages in the Swiss countryside, attracting the attention of young Swiss ladies who had not seen U.S. soldiers en masse hitherto. The adulation was a plus; the massive blisters on tender feet were another story. Somehow, all sixty German-American marchers managed to finish the entire fifty miles, a prerequisite for award of both individual and group recognition. The Proud Americans' participation was sanctioned by Headquarters (HQ), USAREUR, which noted that no U.S. unit had previously been involved in the event. Later that year, the 1-32 FA won the annual battalion level award for effective participation in the Partnership Program, an award sponsored jointly by USAREUR and the *Bundeswehr*.

Based partly on the publicity accorded the battalion's 1974 participation in the two-day Swiss event, a number of other Seventh Army units signed up for the 1975 renewal. Still, the 1-32d FA's was the only bi-national participating organization the succeeding year. The second time around, the joint unit grew to some eighty participants, with many returnees from 1974. The finale each year was a formal pass in review with the commander of the Swiss Army and other dignitaries taking the salute. Whereas there had been no senior U.S. Army representation in the stands in 1974, HQ, USAREUR, was well-represented the ensuing year.

The rules of the Partnership competition precluded a unit winning the trophy in successive years. They did not, however, prevent competition in another category. That said, the 1-32 FA fielded Battery C in the company/battery level competition and won!

All the organizing, planning and training led inevitably to the goal of mission certification the final step of which was live firing of instrumented Lance missiles at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. This event, or series of events, was a four step proposition: a small cadre from battalion headquarters set up shop at the missile range to direct and coordinate the rotation of the three firing batteries over a four week period. Responsibility for the prior coordination vested with HQ, V Corps Artillery.

The command and control cadre was launched during the summer

of 1974 armed with the knowledge that all was in readiness to receive the Proud Americans, initially at Fort Bliss, Texas, the en route focal point for the expedition. On the appointed day, the cadre arrived at Fort Bliss only to find that nothing had been prepared—no liaison, no transport, or other support. Once again, the Partnership saved the day. *Bundeswehr* Major Detlev Jungmann, VBK43 operations officer and the man who made the Partnership work on the German side, had been invited to join the battalion for the live-fire events as an observer. He traveled with the advance party. With the team stranded at the airport, he called some friends at the *Luftwaffe* Air Defense School that was a tenant at Fort Bliss and arranged for several Mercedes staff cars and temporary bed-down facilities at the school. Imagine the incongruity of a group of U.S. Army personnel dashing around Fort Bliss in fancy Air Force blue Mercedes with *Bundeswehr* license plates! It saved the day.

Though belated, the correct connections were finally made with the White Sands liaison team and the week-in-week-out rotation of firing batteries got underway. Though repetitive field training exercises with constantly varied and imaginative scenarios had kept troop participation at a high pitch, nothing matched the awe engendered by the live firing of a Lance. The White Sands test team did its best to simulate field conditions during the run up to the actual firings, but it was hard to imagine the chilly pine forests of the Fulda Gap in the open and desolate terrain of White Sands. Nothing in the artificiality of the setting dampened the enthusiasm of knowing that the end result would finally be a live launch. That first Proud American launch exceeded all expectations. What kept the adrenaline flowing was the short pause while the missile flew to its target some seventy miles "up-range" and the White Sands survey team determined the "miss distance" of the impact. That first round by Launch Platoon One of Battery A (yes, in good military fashion, 1-32 FA followed numerical and alphabetical sequence during the White Sands excursion) impacted some six meters from its intended target.

The exhalations were palpable when the result was announced. The cheers of the Redlegs—testers and tested—literally shook the desert. Though first launch was best, the ensuing five launches were all adjudged successes with none of the impacts exceeding a few dozen of meters from "ground zero." Thus, with the success of the Proud Americans' live-fire tests at White Sands, the long process of turning 1-32 FA into an operational Lance unit came to a successful conclusion. *PJ*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Colonel Woolf P. Gross, USA-Ret., retired after twenty-eight years of total service split evenly between Field Artillery assignments and the Foreign Area Officer Program. He commanded several times at the battery level and was the charter commander of the 1st Battalion, 32d Field Artillery (Lance), as it reorganized to the system in Germany. He served as the executive officer and briefly, commander of a direct support howitzer battalion in Vietnam during the "post-Tet offensive" in 1969. He is a charter member of the Army Historical Foundation and resides in Arlington, Virginia.

Shenandoah Valley

By Lieutenant Colonel Gustav Person, NYARNG-Ret.

On the weekend of 22-23 October 2016, the Army Historical Foundation conducted its latest semi-annual battlefield ride. This trip focused on the Shenandoah Valley campaign of May-October 1864. Amidst magnificent autumnal weather and changing leaf colors, the participants enjoyed two full days of military history, excellent logistics, and fellowship with other Foundation members.

The ride charted the course of this largely ignored campaign which occurred while Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant and the Army of the Potomac and Army of the James battled General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in central Virginia. For six months, a succession of Union and Confederate generals marched and fought up and down the Valley. The Federals sought to destroy the "Breadbasket of the Confederacy" as a part of Grant's overall 1864 strategic plan, while the Confederates exerted their own efforts to preserve their logistics and take the pressure off Lee's forces during the Overland campaign and the siege of Petersburg.

The participants visited the major battlefields of the campaign such as New Market, Cool Springs, Second Kernstown, Third Winchester (Opequon), Fisher's Hill, and Cedar Creek. Late on Sunday afternoon, the group also visited the Belle Grove Plantation house, built in the 1790s, and a major landmark at the Battle of Cedar Creek on 19 October 1864. The group was treated to an excellent tour of examples of colonial and nineteenth century decorative arts and architecture.

The staff ride also featured superior tours and talks by a number of distinguished guides, including Major Troy Marshall of the Virginia Military Institute (VMI); National Park Service Ranger Jeff Driscoll, who continued to amaze and energize the group; Scott Patchan, author of numerous books and articles on the campaign; Colonel Ray Bluhm, USA-Ret., who also coordinated the trip; and Lieutenant Colonel Gus Person, NYARNG-Ret. Significantly, the guides were able to conduct the group to important locations at each site not normally seen by the average battlefield visitor.

The group was introduced to many of the major protagonists of the campaign, including the always aggressive Major General Philip H. Sheridan; the irascible supporter of the "Lost Cause," Lieutenant General Jubal Early; cautious Major General David "Black Dave" Hunter; cantankerous Brigadier General William "Grumble"



1864 Campaign



Jones, who was killed at Piedmont; the future Indian-fighter, Brigadier General George Crook; civilian spy Rebecca Wright, who supplied much useful intelligence to Sheridan prior to the battle of Third Winchester; and many other personalities from both sides.

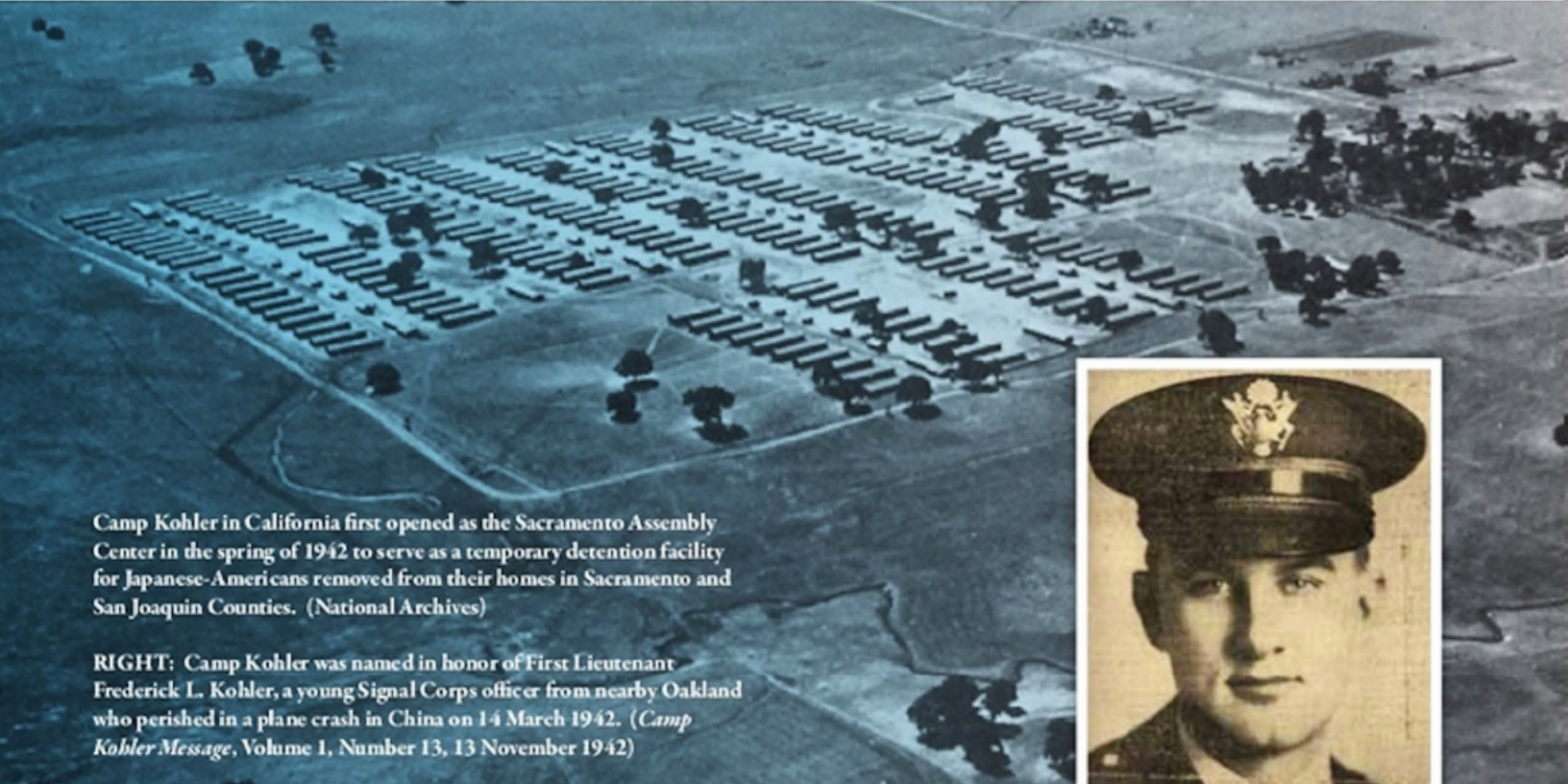
While the average visitor often finds the timeline of the entire campaign complicated and difficult to follow, the briefers were able to guide the participants through the major aspects and place the events in an orderly series of phases. They dramatically described many of the noteworthy moments of the campaign: the charge of the teenage VMI Cadets at New Market; the burning and destruction of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, by Confederate raiders; the thunderous mounted charge of Sheridan's cavalry at Third Winchester; and Early's surprise dawn attack at Cedar Creek.

On Saturday evening, the group was treated to an excellent dinner at the Cork Street Tavern in downtown Winchester. After a long day walking the battlefields, often in strong winds, and a bounteous dinner, the participants retired for a grateful sleep at the local Hampton Inn. As always, Matt Seelinger, of the Foundation staff, handled the logistics and provided coffee and donuts on Saturday morning prior to departure, and a ready supply of drinks and snacks during the trip.

This campaign also provided a number of important lessons-learned for a military audience. With the conclusion of the Shenandoah 1864 battlefield ride, the Foundation has now completed its extended examination of the 1864-65 campaigns in the Eastern Theater. With the arrival of the group at the Foundation headquarters on Sunday evening, the main question was: What are the upcoming trips for next year? Just wait and see!

For information on future staff rides, contact Matt Seelinger at matt.seelinger@armyhistory.org or (703) 522-7901, x 4166. ☐





Camp Kohler in California first opened as the Sacramento Assembly Center in the spring of 1942 to serve as a temporary detention facility for Japanese-Americans removed from their homes in Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties. (National Archives)

RIGHT: Camp Kohler was named in honor of First Lieutenant Frederick L. Kohler, a young Signal Corps officer from nearby Oakland who perished in a plane crash in China on 14 March 1942. (Camp Kohler Message, Volume 1, Number 13, 13 November 1942)

CAMP KOHLER, CALIFORNIA

By Lieutenant Colonel Danny M. Johnson, USA-Ret.



Over the course of its history, the land that comprised Camp Kohler was home to a Japanese-American assembly center, an Army Signal Corps training center, a prisoner of war branch camp, an Army Air Corps overseas replacement depot, an Army branch port of embarkation, and the Walerga Engineer Depot. The footprint of Camp Kohler, located twelve miles northeast of Sacramento, California, grew from a 160-acre tract to over some 3,800 acres at its high point in 1944. Most of the land was leased from seventeen owners and returned to them between 1946 and 1974, when the Army no longer needed the post.

Camp Kohler, located on land that had once been a migrant worker camp, was built on the site of one of the fifteen temporary detention facilities designated "assembly centers" and run by the War-time Civil Control Administration (WCCA) in the spring of 1942. Known as either the Sacramento (or Walerga, a nearby railroad flag station) Assembly Center, it housed 4,739 Japanese-Americans who had been removed from Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties while they waited to be transferred to a more permanent War Relocation Authority camp at Tule Lake, California. Walerga was one of the smaller WCCA camps and operated for only fifty-two days, from 6 May to 26 June 1942.

The War Department leased this 160-acre tract through eminent domain from the owners, Dean Dillman and his sister, Corinne Dillman Kirchhofer, and private contractors built the camp from scratch. The original camp consisted of temporary buildings that were inexpensive, avoided the use of critical war materials, and could be assembled quickly. Typical barracks buildings were single-story structures measuring 100 feet by 20 feet. *Denver Post* newspaperman Bill Hosokawa concluded that the camps "provided only for the most Spartan type of living."

Aerial photographs taken in 1942 indicate there were eleven blocks with over 225 tarpaper covered buildings. Housing blocks were engineered for a capacity of 1,000 persons served by two communal kitchens and mess halls. Within each block, contractors erected showers and lavatories. The camp had its own three-building, 150-bed infirmary, as well as laundries, canteens, post offices, a bank, dental clinics, barber shops, warehouses, recreation buildings, administration buildings, and reception areas for visitors. Housing for military police was provided in an area separate from the assembly center enclosure.

In June 1942, the Army expressed interest in Walerga because the Signal Corps could deliver only somewhere in the range of 58,000 technicians at its training centers at Camp Crowder, Missouri and Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. That figure still fell short of the Army's requirements for 70,000 signalmen by year's end. There was no space for further expansion of Fort Monmouth, and any development at Camp Crowder would require additional construction. The Walerga Assembly Center had all the makings of being an appropriate site because it had space for 5,000 soldiers at once, and it could be made ready to receive trainees in under a month. On 2 July 1942, the War Department approved its acquisition, cautioning the Signal Corps that the proposed site would be just a temporary solution.

The Signal Corps took possession of the camp on 8 July 1942 and renamed Camp Kohler in honor of First Lieutenant Frederick L. Kohler, a young Signal Corps officer and electrical engineer from Oakland, California. He was one of thirteen passengers that died on 14 March 1942, when an overloaded Chinese DC-2-221 developed engine failure and crashed into a hillside. Kohler was posthumously awarded the Paoing Medal of the Sixth Order by

the Republic of China "in recognition of the exemplary services he rendered in helping the war effort of the United Nations" in combating Japanese aggression.

Bob Crist, a young lieutenant from Philadelphia, had his first view of Camp Kohler a few weeks before it officially opened. "I couldn't believe what I saw," he recalled. "They told me this was to be the third Signal Corps Replacement Training Center in the States. What I was looking at from the window of a bus was a collection of tarpaper-covered buildings plopped together on a small hill." Crist added that the post bore little resemblance to Fort Monmouth or Camp Crowder.

On 28 August 1942, Brigadier General Stephen H. Sherrill arrived at Camp Kohler and took command with Colonel William S. Morris serving as Director of Training. On 1 September, the Army established a Signal Corps replacement training center, the third replacement training center for the Signal Corps, at Camp Kohler. The center opened on 15 September.

The initial 481 trainees arrived at Camp Kohler on 19 September 1942. One group arriving by train found their situation disconcerting. Technician Fourth Grade Arthur J. Sweeney explained, "Tickets read 'to Walerga.' The men were dumped right there and could see nothing which resembled an Army camp." Noting lights off in the distance, they trudged about two miles over to McClellan Field, which they assumed to be Camp Kohler. Officials at the airfield gave them directions and loaned the men a truck to get back to their post.

Basic training started on 21 September. In addition to basic



Signalmen train on telephone poles at Camp Kohler in 1942. (*Radio News*, Volume 28, Number 5, November 1942)

soldier skills, inductees and enlisted men became proficient at different kinds of physical fitness activities. Kohler had obstacle courses, an infiltration course, and a ship net landing training apparatus. There was also a simulated French village to teach skills in street fighting. One famous person to come through the front gate was Pulitzer Prize winning dramatist William Saroyan. He underwent basic training at Camp Kohler and was later assigned to the Signal Corps Photographic Laboratory at Astoria in Queens, New York, where he created a production shown to the Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

When soldiers completed their four (later six) week program, unassigned soldiers trained to be cooks, clerk typists, code clerks, administrative and supply clerks, and truck drivers. Soldiers soon to be members of the Signal Corps began the basic communications training, which included the installation, maintenance, and operation of radio, telephone, telegraph, and teletype equipment used on permanent military installations within the country and by fighting units all over the world. As a part of the Signal Corps training, 250 soldiers at a time used their specialized communications skills learned under simulated battle conditions in the Tahoe National Forest near Sierra City, California. These training exercises lasted for five-day periods and were held in an area of approximately twenty square miles. The truck driving course at Kohler provided drivers and trucks for this field exercise.

The proposal for swiftly getting 5,000 men into training at Camp Kohler did not work out as planned. In spite of available housing for that number, sanitary and medical facility support was adequate for only 2,000 soldiers. Furthermore, Camp Kohler had no provisions for a rifle range, parade ground, or gas chamber essential to basic training. As a result, Camp Kohler would confine training to the basic courses and send the qualified men on to Camp Crowder for specialized training.

By 1 October 1942, there were 3,000 trainees at the camp, more than fifty percent over the limit initially approved. Having obtained



Camp Kohler became home to a Signal Corps replacement training center in September 1942 after the closing of the Sacramento Assembly Center. Over the course of World War II, thousands of Signal Corps soldiers trained at the camp, such as these learning to send and receive Morse code messages. (*Radio News*, Volume 28, Number 5, November 1942)



Soldiers listen to a Signal Corps instructor outside of their barracks at Camp Kohler. (Radio News, Volume 28, Number 5, November 1942)



In 1943, the nearly empty facilities at the University of California's College of Agriculture in Davis became the Western Signal Corps School under the administration of Camp Kohler. This photograph shows soldiers training at the Davis facility. (National Archives)

Camp Kohler, the Signal Corps had no desire to relinquish the site as formerly planned. With the requirements for fully trained signalmen growing, the main expectation of holding Camp Kohler lay in changing it into a unit training center. Accordingly, the Signal Corps executed such plans with a limit of 5,700 trainees, but not until January 1944. Therefore, fewer men left for specialization training at Camp Crowder and Fort Monmouth.

Camp Kohler grew rapidly into a modern military training center, transforming hundreds of men into competent soldiers. As an Army post, Camp Kohler still had a long way to go because there were still post and training facilities that had to be constructed even though contractors had been working on adding new buildings since the post was established. There was no post theater or chapel, so movies and religious services were held outdoors in an oak grove. Until the theater and chapel could be constructed, soldiers erected a tent with a seating capacity of 400 persons in the oak grove. In setting it up, they placed the main supporting poles on the outside of the canvas covering, eliminating visual interferences usually inside. The new theater and recreation hall with canteen and cafeteria were finally finished on 22 November 1942. When the new chapel was dedicated just a few days later, the main auditorium could seat 360 persons and held offices for Camp Kohler's four chaplains. A new rifle range was also completed on 27 November 1942. First Sergeant Thomas N. Johns, a member of the National Guard team which won the Camp Perry matches in 1937 and 1938, opened the range by splitting the bull's eye with his first shot.

The installation was officially dedicated on 1 December 1942, with the Army's Chief Signal Officer, Major General Dawson Olmstead, and Brigadier General Sherrill, in attendance. Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Kohler, the parents of camp's namesake, were honored at the ceremony. Since the official dedication ceremony for Camp Kohler was closed to the public, Sacramento radio station KFBK broadcasted the ceremony on the evening of 2 December 1942.

The building program that started in the summer of 1942 pushed through in record time. By January 1943, in addition to paving streets and naming them in honor of outstanding heroes and events in military history, contractors had finished, among other things, a prisoner of war camp, a 72,173 square foot laundry, a 330 bed hospital, and

a guest house with nine sleeping rooms available for fifty cents per person and a reception room. Later, the Walerga Engineer Depot, consisting of a lumberyard with a railroad spur line from the main Southern Pacific Line was built.

Even with all the construction, it became clear that Camp Kohler still lacked enough space for soldiers needing specialized training. To accommodate the numbers of signalmen, the Army found an ideal facility within thirty miles of Camp Kohler, at the University of California's College of Agriculture in Davis. The War Department approved the plan and soon signed a lease for the new facility. The Western Signal Corps School at Davis, under the administration of Camp Kohler, began instruction on 1 February 1943 and had a capacity for 1,000 students. Lieutenant Colonel Edward A. Allen was the first commandant of the school.

While most civilian studies at Davis ceased, university research on experimental farms was allowed to continue without interruption. The Signal Corps took over the classrooms, dormitories, fraternity houses, dining rooms, and athletic and instructional facilities of the university, and furnished the necessary instructional equipment. The initial specialties taught at Davis were radio operator, slow speed continuation, radio operator, high speed, radio repairman, ground, teletype installer repairman, repeaterman, and radio repairman, aircraft equipment. The new Davis school and the Signal Corps Replacement Training Center at Camp Kohler were combined to form the Western Signal Corps Training Center under the command of Brigadier General Sherrill.

When the soldiers were not training for war, they took advantage of all types of recreational programs. Kohler fielded sports teams in baseball, basketball, softball, touch football, boxing, golf, bowling, volleyball, and table tennis. Besides sports for soldiers, Camp Kohler had an orchestra, a band, and a glee club that performed both on and off post. Other entertainment, sponsored by the Hollywood Victory Committee, included shows with all star casts featuring famous actors such as Lucille Ball, Desi Arnaz, Leo Carrillo, and Ann Ayers. Furthermore, the camp sponsored a beauty contest in which Ms. Faith Cathcart of Sacramento became Miss Camp Kohler. The *Message*, the Camp Kohler weekly newspaper with up to 10,000 readers, began as a single mimeographed page and grew into a larger

publication over its 170-week run, with a final illustrated souvenir edition covering the history of the Signal Corps "city."

Over the course of its life, Camp Kohler had five Signal Corps commanders. The first, Brigadier General Sherrill, had recently served in Washington, DC, in the Office of the Chief of Signal. Colonel Harry E. Storms, formerly Signal Officer of the Caribbean Defense Command, followed on 5 April 1943. Colonel James W. Green, Jr., who started the first radar school in the United States, arrived in June 1944. Colonel John L. Autrey, arrived on 16 August 1944 from Australia and New Guinea. After he left for Camp Crowder, Colonel Hugh Mitchell, formerly Signal Corps Officer for the Services of Supply in the Southwest Pacific, replaced him on 9 September 1944. Finally, in early January 1946, Colonel Harry J. Farmer (Transportation Corps) took command of the Camp Kohler Port of Embarkation.

The Army discontinued the Western Signal Corps Unit Training Center at Camp Kohler and the Western Signal Corps School at Davis, effective 31 October 1944, and the Army Air Forces assumed command for an overseas replacement center and took jurisdiction of the laundry on 14 December 1944. The \$700,000 laundry, which continued to operate until 1973, had been responsible for processing more than 600,000 articles of clothing a month for soldiers and air men from not only Camp Kohler, but also Mather Field, McClellan Field, and the Western Signal Corps School at Davis. The laundry employed 286 people at a wage of seventy-four cents per hour. Because of the large laundry requirements, German prisoners of war, detailed from the Stockton Ordnance Depot and later moved to McClellan Field, augmented the regular civilian workforce.

In addition to the replacement depot, other notable activities occurred at Camp Kohler during 1945. For three weeks during March, the California State Guard's High School Cadet Corps held exercises and occupied vacant barracks. Then, on 13 July 1945, a German prisoner escaped, but was found near a stream in Roseville by some teenage boys who notified the authorities. He was captured and held until his return to Germany. On 9 November, due to a housing shortage in the area, 234 Japanese evacuees from relocation centers in the western United States were allowed to return temporarily to the barracks, much to the protest of the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

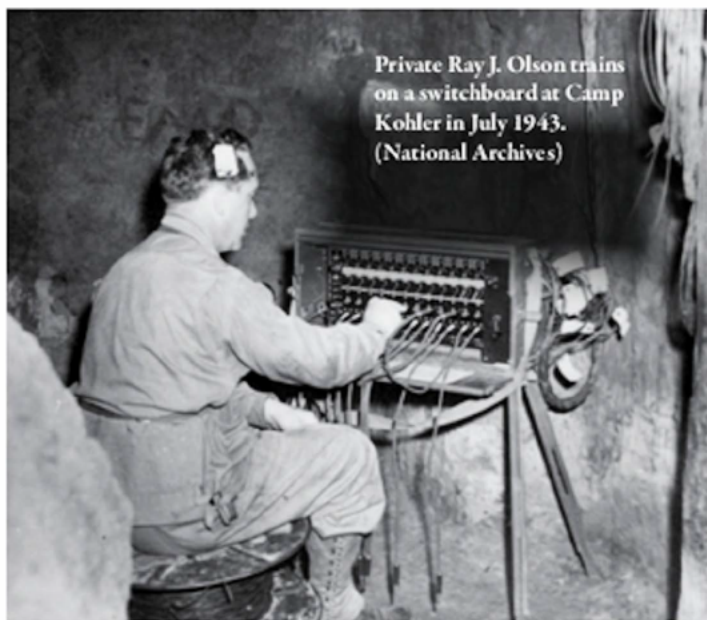
On 15 November 1945, Camp Kohler was transferred once again to the Army for use as a branch of Camp Stoneman, San Francisco Port of Embarkation (SFPOE) where personnel worked hard to help soldiers get discharged and home before the upcoming holidays. The SFPOE declared Kohler surplus on 19 March 1946, and the Corps of Engineers took over the property for disposal. The following year a large fire engulfed portions of Camp Kohler, destroying approximately fifty post buildings and up to twenty homes near the camp. Nevertheless, Army Ground Forces began using the Walerga Engineer Sub-Depot and its adjoining site for postwar reserve activities, and Army and Air National Guard units began using thirty-two acres of the camp as an armory. In 1951, the Air Force considered reactivating Camp Kohler to active status as a basic training center, however, the Department of Defense cited the "necessity of having to practically rebuild Kohler [from the ground up]," (estimated at \$64 million) as the reason for its disapproval.

In October 1947 and December 1948, the California State Finance Department sold off the first of the buildings to veterans. An article in the *Sacramento Bee* announced, "Housing-hungry veterans, some of whom stood in line for two day stretches have

purchased... war surplus buildings... at Camp Kohler." Later, in 1952 and 1955, the Sacramento District, Corps of Engineers, again sold buildings, but to the public. Shortages of building materials had made the structures valuable. Finally, in 1959, the federal government relinquished ownership of the Camp Kohler sewage treatment facility to Sacramento County, which had been leasing it rent free since 1946. In exchange the county agreed to process without charge sewage and waste water from the laundry and a communications building at McClellan Air Force Base (AFB).

Today, little more than a few remnants of Camp Kohler remain. A sign reads, "Camp Kohler, 5922 Roseville Rd, Gate 201." It is next to a fenced area that has a building and a tower with a rotating antenna. This area, formerly part of Camp Kohler and later McClellan AFB, had been leased to the Federal Aviation Administration and was later transferred to it. There is also a large concrete foundation from the former base laundry, and a plaque in Walerga Park denoting California Landmark #934, the former Sacramento Assembly Center. Today, the former Signal Corps camp site is part of a residential subdivision in the Foothill Farms/North Highlands area.

For an Army post, Camp Kohler had a short but interesting life span of four years. After a rough start, Camp Kohler became a polished military installation, and it answered the call no matter how difficult the task. Camp Kohler wore many hats in its short history. Starting as a War Relocation Authority facility, it became a Signal Corps training center, an Army Air Forces overseas replacement depot, an Army port of embarkation, and an engineer sub-depot. Above all, it was a "can do" military installation of many uses. *PJ*

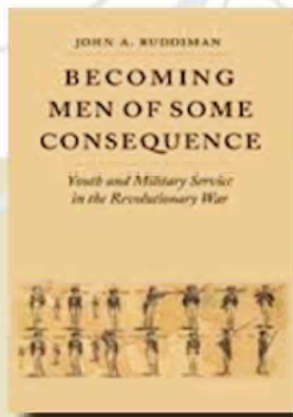


Private Ray J. Olson trains on a switchboard at Camp Kohler in July 1943. (National Archives)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lieutenant Colonel Danny Johnson, USA-Ret., is a private military scholar who has contributed to On Point and a number of other military publications. He specializes in World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and historic posts. He currently resides in Sacramento, California.

BOOK REVIEWS



Becoming Men of Some Consequence: Youth and Military Service in the Revolutionary War

By John A. Ruddiman. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2014. ISBN 978-0-8139 3617 8. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. viii, 274. \$39.50.

The old saying holds that military conflicts are “a rich man’s war and a poor man’s fight.” To this we might add that they are “old men’s wars, young man’s fights.” Noting that the vast majority of Continental soldiers were under the age of twenty-one, John A. Ruddiman illuminates this phenomenon in his book, *Men of Some Consequence*. Using memoirs, diaries, and pension application records, Ruddiman highlights the motivations and expectations young recruits brought in as well as their experiences and the often harsher realities they discovered. Along the way, he provides insight into the formation of masculine and martial identities, and the impact these would have on the early American nation.

In eighteenth-century America, young men passed through a life course limbo: at age sixteen they began militia duty, yet were not legally classed as freemen until they reached twenty one. It was these young men, typically landless, single, and poor, who made up the Continental Army. While there was a *rage militaire* in the early months of the war, and true patriotic feeling on display, most young men embraced military service less for ideological and more for personal reasons of preparing themselves for the traditional lives they intended or hoped to soon inhabit.

For the poor young men of the Army, military service promised opportunities they might not otherwise see. There was pay and provision, and soon enough, extra bounties for volunteers. The coming of the draft opened even more opportunities as drafted men frequently sought substitutes to fill their places and offered their own incentive bounties. Some recruits played this system for all it was worth: serving a term of some months as a substitute, resigning, and then re volunteering for a new, usually larger, bounty.

An army camp, however, was not the place to cultivate those traditional lives or to prepare for the sorts of mundane economic activities they might expect. One could not realistically make a career as a revolutionary soldier. Service developed discipline in many men, though not all. For most young

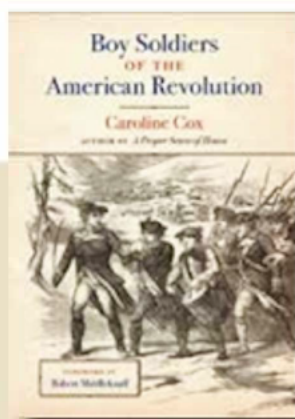
men, masculine and martial culture translated into bravery in the face of the enemy for intense short periods, and feats of alcoholic endurance and sexual prowess during the longer stretches of war.

Having entered into this new world of masculine and martial self-formation, how would these young men transition back to civilian lives? Ruddiman explains that for many, this was a vexing problem, but it was a larger societal question as well, for many civilians were frankly distrustful of soldiers. Much of this mistrust was social prejudice towards the poor, but also seems to have been encouraged by the morally undisciplined lives so many young men now exhibited.

For many veterans, the end of the war did not bring them the desired status or economic competence they had anticipated. Officers fared better in the postwar world, but many of them were already of the privileged class with connections to which their honored service, proclaimed in membership in the Society of the Cincinnati, simply added another dimension; poor men tended to remain poor. Whatever frustrations awaited them though, from a government that dragged its feet in the payment of wages, bounties, and promised western lands, to a depressed economic picture, Ruddiman insists that these poor veterans clung to their traditional aspirations of family and community and did not seek a dramatically altered society as the reward of their years in service.

Becoming Men of Some Consequence will be of interest to students of the Revolutionary War, the experiences of common soldiers and their junior officers, and of the way that the ideals of independence translated for ordinary men. How young men used the experiences of wartime to construct new identities is a story worth telling, and one which will continue to resonate as long as young Americans march off to serve their country.

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Boy Soldiers of the American Revolution

By Caroline Cox. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016. ISBN 978-1-4696-2753-3. Appendix. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 211. \$29.95.

It is abundantly clear from the outset that Caroline Cox (1954-2014), a history professor at the University of the Pacific, expended an extraordinary amount of time and effort on what must have often seemed tedious and arcane research for her final book. Readers will be gratified that her efforts are well preserved and justly articulated in this posthumous publication. The American Revolution has been analyzed *ad infinitum*, but Cox has managed to extract fresh and enlightening data concerning a relatively small but nonetheless unique constituency who actively participated therein from 1775 to 1783. To that, she adds a vast array of collateral economic, cultural, and societal details to make sense of it all.

Official contemporary records for anyone (including but not limited to those under age sixteen, the minimum age for enlistment) in the Continental Army or state militias are few, but Cox found a dusty treasure trove in 1819 45 pension records. She also scoured letters, court records, newspaper accounts, local histories, diaries, and memoirs. One fascinating sidebar is Dr. Cox's analysis of the efficacy of postwar pension decisions rendered by James Edwards, who studied and approved those applications over a thirty-year period. As noted by Cox's mentor, distinguished historian Robert Middlekauf, who shepherded the publication of the book and wrote the foreword, her unusual but credible technique involves taking the bare bones of specific data, including an excerpt from pension documents. These pension records particularly reflect on six young men, to which she adds "vignettes" prefaced by "perhaps it was like this," the latter including reconstruction of all pertinent corroborative details.

The reasons that the young men joined the military are as diverse as they are themselves: promise of adventure; a need to leave an unstable or unpleasant home situation; bonding; an alternative to traditional apprenticing; availability to earn money; and substituting for other family or friends. It should also be noted that many of the leaders of the Revolution were very young themselves. Perhaps nothing better illustrates that

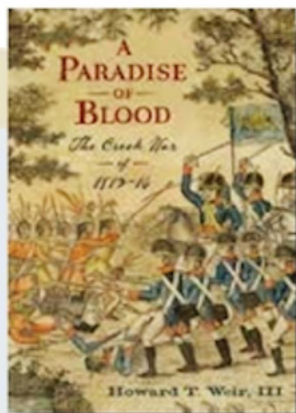
aggregate youthful leadership image than that of French supporter and leader, the Marquis de Lafayette, who was nineteen years old when he arrived in America in 1777. Cox discovered American boys as young as nine serving.

As for what the boys did once they had entered service, the classic stereotype of the "littledrummer boy" was not entirely erroneous, but it was incomplete. Youthful drummers did in fact provide valuable cadence and maneuver control, later joined by three note fifers. Boys also acted as guards, runners, servers, clerks, and in a variety of other jobs. As weapons became less heavy, some took up arms.

Cox admits anecdotally that some of the details of the boys' service as minors raises a few murky legalities, (e.g., the ability to contract), but the communal need was great and these incidental but pesky exigencies were apparently mostly ignored. The boys might have come from the same family or otherwise knew each other, and it is interesting to note that from time to time, they were permitted to go home for a period and then return to service. Punishments, usually floggings, were hard and the work was difficult, but the pay (which might end with a cash lump sum to a family member or perhaps a land grant) was worthwhile, and learning experiences were unique, marketable, and enticing. As they returned to their homes after the war, many of the boys became much more involved, mature, disciplined, and skilled partners in society.

During Dr. Cox's sixteen years at the University of the Pacific, she was known and recognized for her scholastic excellence, a reputation that is perpetuated by *Boy Soldiers of the American Revolution*. It is well written, exhaustively researched, and includes detailed and useful notes and an appendix. It has a place on myriad bookshelves, especially of any American sociologist or historian.

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Arlington, Virginia



A Paradise of Blood: The Creek War of 1813-14

By Howard T. Weir, III. Yardley, PA: Westholme Publishing, 2016. ISBN 978-1-59416-193-3. Maps. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. x, 554. \$35.00.

Mostly forgotten today, the Creek War of 1813-14 featured all the elements that typified white-Indian conflicts throughout U.S. history. It grew out of the desire of white settlers to possess Indian land. Indians often signed treaties they did not understand. At the same time, whites had no desire to preserve Indian populations living in their midst. Famous Americans, both Indian and white, such as Tecumseh, Andrew Jackson, Davy Crockett, and Sam Houston, participated, as well as others who deserve to be remembered but are not. The fighting was often bloody, and innocents suffered along with the combatants. In *A Paradise of Blood*, Howard T. Weir brings the entire unfortunate affair to vivid life.

Following a series of land cessions dating back to the 1700s, the Muskogee (Creek) Confederation still held land in Alabama and Georgia that was coveted by white farmers, plantation owners, and land speculators. The land was bisected by the Federal Road, which allowed whites to travel across Creek land from Georgia to Mississippi—a recipe for conflict. The Creeks, whose numbers included many of mixed white/Indian ancestry, were divided; some had adopted white men's ways, operating plantations and businesses, but many others preferred the traditional Indian lifestyle. Still, after war broke out, allegiances were not predictable. One of the hostile Creeks' best tactical leaders, the mixed-blood William Weatherford, was "a wealthy and cultured planter" who wore

a black broadcloth suit, "loved the fiddle," and was "received into the first class of white society" (pp. 158-59).

Into this volatile mix came the Shawnee leader Tecumseh. He saw, in the War of 1812, an opportunity to form an Indian confederation, supported by the British, as well as the Spanish in Florida, that would halt American expansion to the West. When many Creeks chose to follow the Shawnee prophets who remained after Tecumseh's visit, the result was two years of war with the whites and what amounted to a civil war among the Creeks. Indians from other tribes participated as allies of the whites, and some slaves joined the hostile Creeks.

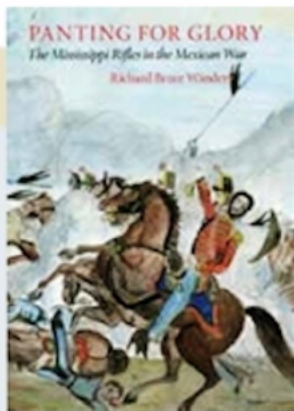
American forces, including Regular Army, volunteers, and militia, invaded the Creek nation from Georgia, Tennessee, and Mississippi. The quality of the volunteers and militia, including their leaders, was mixed at best. The marshy terrain was forbidding, and troops went hungry because of incompetent, and possibly corrupt, civilian contractors. The war ended with Andrew Jackson's victory at Horseshoe Bend, on the Tallapoosa River in Alabama, but only after the massacre at Fort Mims, in which only about twenty-eight out of 400 white defenders survived, and much additional cruelty, bloodshed and suffering.

Weir's ability to sort out an incredibly complex tale is matched by his skilled writing. Characters, including both heroes and scoundrels, are thoroughly fleshed out, and battles are recounted in

fine detail. Weir's writing shines in passages like this one, as Andrew Jackson confronts mutinous soldiers: "[Jackson] leaned down and, with his good arm, snatched a musket from a surprised soldier... Because his wounded arm was in a sling, he lay the borrowed musket across the withers of his horse and pointed the weapon at the men. At the top of his lungs, he screamed out that he would kill the first man who attempted to pass. Not a man doubted that Jackson would shoot to kill... There was something unearthly, and unfathomable, something that went beyond ordinary human experience, in the apparition before them" (p. 339).

With many characters, and so much going on as various expeditions invade Creek territory, a "cast of characters" and a timeline of events would make the reader's job easier. Additional maps would have made the excellent battle descriptions even more meaningful. Regardless, this is an excellent recounting which should appeal to, and enlighten, readers interested in white Indian conflicts in the southeastern United States.

Darrell Smith
Champaign, Illinois



Panting for Glory: The Mississippi Rifles in the Mexican War

Richard Bruce Winders. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2016. ISBN 978-1-62349-416-2. Illustrations. Maps. Appendixes. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. vii, 192. \$45.00.

In *Panting for Glory*, Richard Bruce Winders has found a very interesting way of telling one small segment of the history of the Mexican War. Winders relates the stories of the famous 1st Mississippi Regiment with the relatively hapless 2d Mississippi Regiment. In an era where individuals and society placed a premium on martial honor, the juxtaposition of the sagas of the two units shows the impact played by timing, place, personality, and fate.

When, on 13 May 1846, Congress authorized the raising of 50,000 volunteers to supplement the Regular Army for war with Mexico, Mississippi was ready. The desire to serve was so strong that volunteers exceeded the state's authorized quota. While only a roughly 1,000-man regiment of ten companies was authorized, enough men had volunteered to fill more than twenty-two companies. By 10 June, the 1st Mississippi was mustered into service.

In what would prove to be an important development in the unit's future, the men elected Jefferson Davis to be their colonel. Winders notes that Davis had both the military experience and political connections necessary for command. An 1828 graduate of West Point, Davis participated in the Black Hawk War before resigning from the Army in 1835 to marry Sarah Knox Taylor, the daughter of Zachary Taylor who President James Polk had dispatched to Texas in June 1845 and under whom the 1st Mississippi would serve.

The 1st Mississippi acquitted itself well in its first battle at Monterrey. The regiment's greatest performance, however, and the one that, according to Winders, "would forever secure for them a prominent place in the history of the war," (p. 60) would occur at Buena Vista. There Davis, either "by design or chance," joined the 1st Mississippi at almost a right angle with the 3d Indiana. The two volunteer units then halted a charge of Mexican lancers and stabilized the American front.

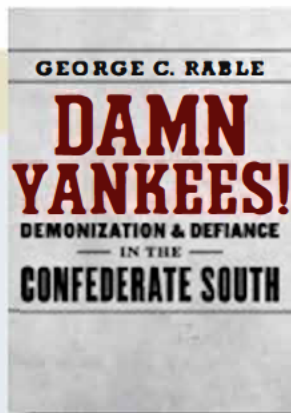
Winders describes the impressive victory at Buena Vista as "the turning point of the Mexican War" in that it made possible Major General Winfield Scott's decisive campaign in central Mexico that led to the capture of Mexico City. At this pinnacle of their glory, the enlistments of the men of the 1st Mississippi neared expiration; on 9 March 1847, they began their journey back home. As they passed through New Orleans, they were proclaimed the "star regiment" among the throngs of volunteers passing through. The 1st Mississippi mustered out of service on 12 June 1847, having "coated itself with immortal glory."

With the terms of the original volunteers expiring, the 2d Mississippi Regiment was formed in November 1846. The 2d Mississippi suffered much sickness as it travelled to Mexico over the winter. It also gained a reputation for poor discipline as it passed through New Orleans. When it finally reached Mexico, it was advised it would not be

joining Scott's army, but instead was ordered to report to Taylor. The time lost due to this miscommunication may have robbed the regiment from joining the 1st Mississippi at Buena Vista. Things only got worse, however, as the 2d Mississippi suffered an outbreak of smallpox. In the end, the 2d Mississippi served its time in "the backwaters of the war," destined to be "only the guardians and instead of the conquering heroes" (p. 109). They were mustered out of service late in July 1848, having lost 160 of its men to disease without ever having the chance to prove themselves in battle.

Winders is well-qualified to tell this story of the Mississippi regiments. He is the historian and curator of the Alamo, and his Mexican War scholarship includes *Mr. Polk's Army: The American Military Experience in the Mexican War*. In *Panting for Glory* he provides a compelling account of how two regiments, in many ways so similar, could have such dissimilar experiences in Mexico.

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Damn Yankees! Demonization & Defiance in the Confederate South

By George C. Rable. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2015. ISBN 0-8071-6058-9. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. x, 206. \$38.00.

Abraham Lincoln, George C. Rable observes, famously contended in his Inaugural Address that Northerners and Southerners “are not enemies, but friends” (p. 1). Lincoln had not yet learned to speak the language of hatred, but many Northerners and Southerners had. As Rable comments, during any war, “there must be enemies, and those enemies must be defined, denounced, and defeated. This process in turn influences a war’s policies and conduct; it helps determine the duration of the contest; and it most assuredly helps shape the conflict’s termination and subsequent settlement” (p. 2). How the Confederates defined, demonized, and dehumanized their Yankee enemies is the subject of Rable’s eminently readable *Damn Yankees!*

Rable begins by discussing the stereotypes Southerners created of the “Universal Yankee Nation.” Before the Civil War, Southerners viewed Yankees as vagabonds, villains, an “ignoble race” (p. 12), and demonstrably inferior to Southerners. They denounced Yankees as, alternatively, Puritans and infidels. Rable comments, somewhat wryly, that Southerners were “hardly bothered by the inconsistency of condemning the Yankees as both religious bigots and modern infidels” (p. 16-17).

The images of Yankees Southerners carried with them from the antebellum era remained potent during the U.S. Civil War. However, they defined Yankees in new ways after meeting them in

combat. Southerners often boasted they could each whip three to ten Yankees and they assumed Northerners were cowardly by nature. This tendency bred overconfidence. When doughty Northerners disproved exaggerated Southern claims, discussions of Yankee cowardice switched from physical to moral weakness. Southerners derided Yankees as money grubbers who relied on foreign hirelings. They slandered Yankees as white trash, evil creatures, and assailers of “the sacred circle of home and family” (p. 47). This demonization of the enemy, Rable remarks, “resonated with a vast array of people throughout the Confederate South” (p. 54).

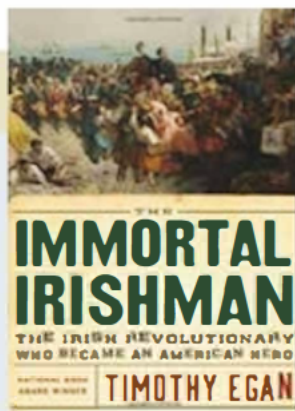
Building on his discussion of Southern fears of “Yankee barbarians,” Rable explores another Southern fear: did Yankees intend to exterminate Southerners? Some Confederates, Rable explains, convinced themselves that “cold-blooded murder had become part and parcel of Union war policy” (p. 74). Southerners proclaimed that Yankees ignored the rules of civilized warfare and this bloodcurdling imagery led to “wild talk of raising the black flag and launching a war of extermination” against Northerners (p. 86). Southerners, of course, conveniently neglected their own, quite numerous, atrocities.

According to Rable, Confederates had little problem rationalizing their hatred of Northerners. This virulent hatred, Rable asserts, and the fact that words had become weapons had

important consequences: these ideas endured long after the guns had fallen silent and “loathing of the Yankees and a settling of scores would continue after the war” (p. 117). Indeed, after the South had been “subjugated,” many Southerners refused to stop hating Yankees. Some even proclaimed their hatred more intensely and that “dreams of reunion were no more than a wicked delusion” (p. 127). Hatred, Rable observes, was an “important but often ignored legacy of the war” (p. 133). Rable contends that the anti Yankee sentiments “not only survived but flourished” (p. 134).

Damn Yankees! is concise, vividly written, and contains many thought-provoking ideas. Rable proves the importance of paying attention to how Southerners demonized Yankees and indicates a number of themes meriting additional inquiry. A future study might analyze Northern demonization of Confederates and employ a comparative perspective to highlight similarities as well as differences in the rhetorical strategies of both sides. In sum, this accessible book will appeal to both a scholarly audience as well as a general readership.

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The Immortal Irishman: The Irish Revolutionary Who Became an American Hero

By Timothy Egan. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016. ISBN 978-0-544-27288-0. Photographs. Appendix. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xv, 368. \$28.00.

In *The Immortal Irishman*, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and *New York Times* columnist Timothy Egan shines a bright light on a fascinating, impressively focused, and tragic story reflective of the Irish American contribution to the Union cause in the American Civil War. In this case, the “Immortal Irishman” refers to Thomas Francis Meagher—Irish revolutionary, orator, fugitive, territorial governor, hero to thousands, and a brigadier general in the Union Army.

Spanning a swath of history running from his 1823 birth in Waterford, Ireland, through his tragic and suspicious 1867 death on a riverboat on the Missouri River, Egan provides readers with a powerful and inspirational story of struggle and the power of freedom as an idea. Following a classical Catholic boarding school education in Ireland and England, Meagher in large part rejected his upper-class background and joined the Young Ireland movement until eventually arrested by the British, tried, and in 1849 was transported to the Empire’s Australian penal colony for life. After three years of imprisonment, Meagher escaped, sailed for America, and remained a fugitive from the British Empire until his death.

While only a fraction of *The Immortal Irishman* covers the establishment of the Irish Brigade and Meagher’s wartime service, it does cover some of the finest contributions to the Northern cause by the Irish Brigade and other units formed from predominantly immigrant Irish, including

First Bull Run, the Peninsula campaign, Antietam, and Fredericksburg, to name just a few. Perhaps more importantly, Egan’s work successfully outlines the political positions, and perceived justifications, for Irish support of both sides in the conflict. Not only are the political views of Meagher explored, but so are those of some fellow Young Ireland supporters who fought for the Confederacy.

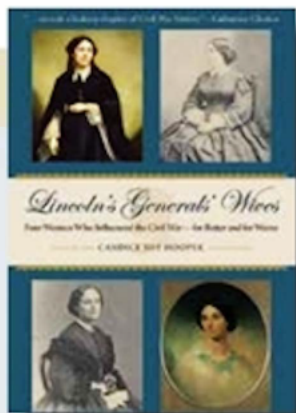
To the non-specialist, the real contribution of Egan’s work is not as an operational work on the Civil War or as an Irish Brigade unit history, but rather in bringing to light the complexities behind the varied thinking of key Irish leaders involved in the war, and their views as to why—or why not—to fight for the Union. To Meagher, this struggle was not simply about the effort to save the Union that allowed his freedom, but also a potential training and recruiting ground for an eventual return to Ireland at the head of an experienced fighting force, with the ultimate goal of securing a free Ireland controlled by the Irish, not the British.

Following the war, Meagher continued his work to support justice and equality while serving as Secretary and then acting Governor of the Montana Territory. It is in this latter role that he confronted what was then called the Vigilance Committee, an anti-immigrant, vigilante group linked to numerous deaths in the territory. It was this group that some believe may have had a hand in Meagher’s eventual and early death

in 1867.

While many students of the Civil War, or the Irish in early America, may be familiar with the exploits of the Irish Brigade, and the tragedy for the Union that was the Battle of Fredericksburg, or even Meagher, many may not know the rest of this great story. *The Immortal Irishman* goes a long way towards revealing not only a significant chapter in the history of the Irish in America, but also the influence that America and its ideological foundations had on some of the war’s key Irish leaders, and the hopes that many of those leaders held for the post war period. Like so much of that tragic, wasteful war between brothers, the end for Meagher would also be tragic, wasteful, and in the end his full leadership potential would be unrealized. Egan’s *Immortal Irishman*, however, will ensure that the story of one of Ireland’s valiant “Wild Geese” that fought and led men not in Europe, but in America, will not be forgotten.

Andrew G. Wilson
Quantico, Virginia



Lincoln's Generals' Wives: Four Women Who Influenced the Civil War—for Better and for Worse

By Candice Shy Hooper. Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2016. ISBN 978-1-60635-278-6. Photographs. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 432. \$39.95.

Candice Hooper's book looks at an often overlooked facet of the American Civil War—the relations of each of Abraham Lincoln's top four generals' with their closest confidants, their wives. Correspondence was an art and an obligation during the nineteenth century, and letters were the primary means of communication. Hooper's book draws from volumes of letters, journals, and memoirs to painstakingly detail the lives of each couple while focusing on each woman's Civil War experiences.

The book is well written and impeccably researched. It is divided into four separate accounts, each by wife, and the stories are supported by maps, illustrations, and photographs. Hooper has successfully presented dated personal anecdotes that correspond precisely with known history so that readers soon feel that they have stepped back in history to live the events of the Civil War. The generals casually discuss their personal thoughts and concerns for their families, while professionally they are engaged in war, creating a unique depth of historical information.

Lincoln's Generals' Wives is both an informative and entertaining read. Shy includes uncensored excerpts taken from letters between the couples. The book will also grab the attention of the Civil War and military enthusiast because of the personal and cultural details that add another facet to the history of the American Civil War.

The first two parts of the book are

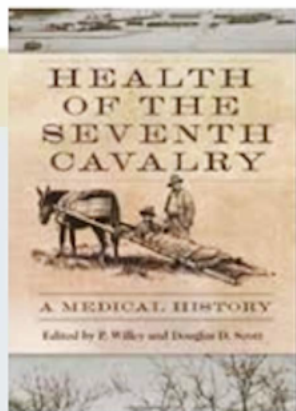
about Jessie Frémont and Nelly McClellan, and both women provided unblinking support of their husbands. Jessie Frémont's correspondence was notorious for her staunch support of her husband and his conduct of the war, and critical of those she felt were sabotaging his "march to greatness." Nelly McClellan's correspondence details her support of her husband, but many of her surviving letters revolve primarily around her travels with the children and family. However, after her husband's death, she unwisely allowed their uncensored, private wartime correspondence critical of President Abraham Lincoln and his staff to be published.

In contrast, the last two parts of the book focus on the lives of Ellen Sherman and Julia Grant and reveal a different type of relationship. While both women certainly supported of their husbands, they did not hesitate to share their opinions and occasional criticisms. Ellen Sherman was a woman of great faith and her ability to place life into a spiritual framework allowed her husband, in some measure, to cope when he was relieved of duty because of "severe anxieties" and reports that he was crazy became widely known. Julia Grant was the only woman of the four generals' wives that added First Lady to her resume, although Frémont and McClellan had also been interested in the presidency. Interestingly, Julia kept the slaves she had before she was married until 1863. Although this resulted

in questions about her loyalties, Grant was still known as the general that the Lincoln trusted most.

Personal stories of military leaders have often been published, but authors have rarely presented their wives as key to their command decisions. Hooper introduces the book by remarking that each general's wife influenced the course of the war when the reality is that the women led extraordinary, influential lives and certainly impacted their husband's ambitions. However their personal attitudes and support of their husbands was a reflection of the era and influenced their families instead of the course of history or the outcome of the war.

Rhonda Quillin
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas



Health of the Seventh Cavalry: A Medical History

Edited by P. Willey and Douglas D. Scott. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2015. ISBN 978-0-8061-4839-7. Photographs. Maps. Appendix. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xxxi, 446. \$32.95.

Pivate Gustave Korn of Company I, 7th U.S. Cavalry, had twenty recorded medical treatments between his enlistment in 1873 and 1884 for "sprains, dislocation, contusion, incised wounds, dysentery, boils, catarrh, and bronchitis, but no combat wounds." A fellow member of Company I, blacksmith Henry Bailey, "had only one record of medical treatment before dying at the Little Big horn." These are just two examples from the wealth of detail provided in a fascinating book that examines the health of the 7th Cavalry through meticulous research into archival materials, overlaid with clear, concise, and understandable statistical analysis that provides insights in the health, disease, and trauma that the men of the 7th Cavalry experienced between 1866 and 1884.

Any reader could be forgiven for initially approaching this book with a sense of trepidation in as much as they were about to be overwhelmed with pure statistical data. The genius of this book, however, lies not only in the overall construction of the chapters, which negate any fear of statistical overload, but in the well thought out progression of each chapter.

The book, edited by P. Willey and Douglas D. Scott, co authors of an earlier book entitled *They Died with Custer: Soldiers Bones from the Battle of the Little Bighorn*, takes "an anthropological approach to the study of human biology." Nine authors, including Willey and Scott, whose professional backgrounds include

anthropology, otolaryngology, forensic science, and history, author sixteen chapters.

The first five chapters provide the bedrock for the remainder of the book. Two of them provide an overview of the history and regimental structure of the 7th Cavalry. A third gives an excellent overview of nineteenth century medical care. The fourth chapter, entitled "Nineteenth Century Military Nosology," explains the diagnosis and categorization of nineteenth century illnesses. The last of the five, and one that should be required reading for all graduate students regardless of their fields of study, details how the research into the medical records of the 7th Cavalry was conducted. It also shows the difficulties encountered in undertaking the research and the shortfalls in data.

The subsequent seven chapters concentrate on the diseases and other ailments impacting members of the 7th Cavalry during the period of study. All seven chapters are replete with interesting examples providing a fascinating glimpse into daily life of 7th Cavalry.

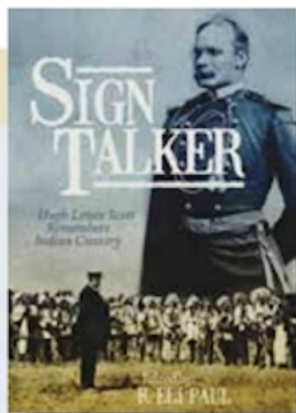
The chapter on cold injuries includes the case of Sergeant William Earl admitted to hospital in December 1870 "after being discovered outside following a night of heavy drinking" and suffering badly from exposure. In a catchall chapter entitled "Other Injuries in the Seventh Cavalry," readers learn that the medical records of the 7th included eleven instances of arrow wounds. A chapter on

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) endeavors to apply the growing knowledge now available to discern through the medical records if there were cases of what would be recognized today as PTSD.

Throughout the seven chapters, the authors undertake statistical analysis on the medical data to provide means, correlations between injuries and diseases, and the stature of a trooper. Fascinating statistical comparisons between recent immigrants and native-born enlistees explore the impacts of, and proclivities towards, health, disease and trauma are in each chapter.

The last chapters take a broader comparative approach to the data examining deaths on the frontier in the post-Civil War period in general and in comparison with the 7th Cavalry, and an examination of the health of urban Americans during the later part of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The summary and discussion chapter effectively pulls everything together for readers. In addition, *Health of the Seventh Cavalry* contains numerous charts, graphs, maps, a glossary of medical terms, a list of surgeons associated with the 7th Cavalry, and an extensive list of references cited throughout the book.

Alan Capps
Alexandria, Virginia



Sign Talker: Hugh Scott Remembers Indian Country

Edited by R. Eli Paul. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2016. ISBN 978-0-8061-5354-4. Photographs. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xii, 260. \$29.95.

Hugh Lenox Scott remains one of the most influential and important soldiers in U.S. Army history. Unfortunately, he is largely unknown and forgotten today. Sadly enough for such a distinguished soldier, Scott still lacks a modern biography—the only such effort was an unpublished 1968 Ph.D. dissertation.

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1876, Scott was on his customary graduation leave when he read the news of George Armstrong Custer's defeat at the Little Big Horn. He immediately applied for, and was accepted, to fill one of the officer vacancies in the 7th Cavalry. For the remainder of his career on the Western Plains, Scott would remember, "No matter how cold, how wet, how hungry I found myself during all the years of Plains life that followed, I felt that I was where I belonged" (p. 47).

Scott went on to an illustrious career, serving as Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy, and later as U.S. Army Chief of Staff during the Mexican Border Campaign of 1916-1917. He subsequently published a massive autobiography of 200,000 words, a tome that a contemporary reviewer from the *New York Times* found to be "garrulous" (p. 8). Historians are well familiar with Scott, for his autobiography has long been used as a primary source for the Little Big Horn engagement.

Kansas City Public Library Archivist R. Eli Paul has contributed a considerable service by releasing an abridged version of Scott's long out of print original vol-

ume. Paul's version focuses upon Scott's service on the western frontier, noting that Scott's writing "is informative, revealing and even enthusiastic—right up to when Scott leaves Indian country. Once he departed, so did his heart, and so did his verve as a writer" (p. 9). Paul thus focuses his abridgement from Scott's early career as a cadet at West Point through his departure for eastern assignments with the U.S. Army in 1897.

A contemporary referred to Scott as "this grizzled old campaigner—this greatest American Indian fighter—who never killed an Indian" (p. 18). Scott became an expert in the Western Plains Indian sign language, and performed an exhaustive study of Indian life, culture, skills, and religion. He became close friends with numerous Indians, accompanied them on their buffalo hunts, and lived with them in their lodges. Not surprisingly, Scott developed a deep and intuitive empathy and affinity for them. Accordingly, he was able to utilize this knowledge, coupled with a sympathetic interest for their well-being, to defuse numerous conflicts which otherwise would only have been resolved with violence, destruction and bloodshed. Scott's efforts significantly eased the transition of the western frontier, respecting the Indians and their way of life while concurrently facilitating expansion of the United States. As the commander of a company of Indian Scouts, then First Lieutenant Scott was able to effectively train, discipline, and utilize Indian auxiliaries.

Paul is to be commended for mak-

ing the most valuable portion of Scott's treatise—his over two decades of service with the Frontier Army from 1876 through 1897—readily available. The autobiography is skillfully edited, and Paul is to be complimented for minimizing alterations to Scott's own words. He also provides valuable annotated footnotes. The University of Oklahoma Press is to be commended for utilizing footnotes rather than endnotes, which makes Paul's superlative commentary readily and instantly accessible.

Scott's ability to comprehend and understand his opponents, the various tribes of Indians and their individual leaders, retains considerable and integral lessons for soldiers serving with foreign military organizations and advising foreign officers, soldiers and politicians in obscure nations worldwide. Paul's abridgement of Scott's autobiography should be mandatory reading for all officers preparing for imminent deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, or elsewhere. This superb work is also heartily recommended for inclusion in all frontier Army and Indian War libraries.

Douglas R. Cubbison
Casper, Wyoming



Days of Perfect Hell: The U.S. 26th Infantry Regiment in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, October-November 1918

By Peter L. Belmonte. Atglen, PA: Schiffer Publishing, 2015. ISBN 978-0-7643-4921-8. Photographs. Maps. Appendix. Bibliography. Pp. 240. \$29.99.

D*ays of Perfect Hell* tells the story of the 26th Infantry Regiment in the Meuse-Argonne offensive with a day-by-day accounting. This intense focus on one infantry regiment in a great World War I battle makes this book unique. Though several recent books have brought to light the significance of the battle at the strategic level, and the tactical experience of the American divisions committed to it, the focus on the roughly 4,000 officers of the regiment distinguishes this work.

Author Peter L. Belmonte shows an obvious passion for this subject. He was mentored by James Carl Nelson, the author of *The Remains of Company D*, in this writing effort. He has exhaustively mined all the pertinent primary sources at multiple archives to bring the story of the 26th Infantry Regiment to life.

The 26th Infantry anchored the right flank of the 1st Division during the Meuse-Argonne offensive, a position of importance for liaison with flank units and of vulnerability as the front lines became uneven. This tactical history fits squarely into the narrative of a storied unit. Readers of such recent books as *The Big Red One* by Scott Wheeler will have pertinent context for this unit history. Belmonte delved to the individual soldier-level in the National Archives at St. Louis, Missouri, drew on ample sources from the National Archives at College Park, Maryland, and included a strong selection of contemporary photographs from the McCormick

Research Center in Wheaton, Illinois. The result is a rich mixture of text and image.

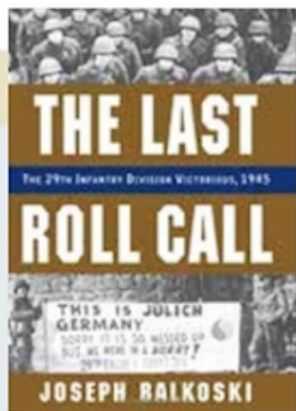
Belmonte's ingenious use of field messages to deductively rectify conflicting accounts of the course of daily battle, while at the same time illuminating the perceptions of the battalion commanders who wrote them, is particularly impressive. These field messages contain both sketches and text, and provide a useful crosscheck for small unit positions. This helps to clarify both unit location and chronology, substantially amplifies the narrative, and takes the book to a new level of detail.

The chapters are organized by day of battle. Each chapter provides readers a detailed mix of personal experience and retelling of combat action at battalion, company, and platoon level. The 26th Infantry Regiment learned the value of prodigious artillery support, redundant communications, and reliable daily resupply over the course of this battle, lessons which should be commonplace for tactical leaders of today. As with so many other American Expeditionary Forces units, pertinent training was sacrificed to the exigencies of the operational moment. The high number of casualties for the 26th, approaching fifty percent over the course of the battle, are testament to the need for better training and integration of combined arms for the regiment, and for the American Army, in the Meuse Argonne. One comes away with a sense of needless loss, and the importance of training and

leadership in preventing it.

Days of Perfect Hell is thus a useful compendium on tactical leadership, as it makes clear the decisions in properly employing combined arms by the officers of the regiment paid off in tactical success. Poor training or integration of support arms resulted in heavy casualties. Readers will understand the interaction of the battalion and regimental commanders over the course of the battle, and their influence on the company and platoon leadership. This book also illuminates the experiences of junior leaders and enlisted men who fought the battle. Readers who want to learn of the story of the American soldier in the Meuse Argonne campaign will enjoy this close focus on an important regiment in a famous division at a critical time.

Colonel Dean A. Nowowiejski, USA-Ret.
Lansing, Kansas



The Last Roll Call: The 29th Infantry Division Victorious, 1945

By Joseph Balkoski. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2015. ISBN 978-0-8117-1621-5. Photographs. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xi, 388. \$29.95.

Joseph Balkoski's *The Last Roll Call: The 29th Infantry Division Victorious, 1945* can be enjoyed as a stand-alone volume, or as the concluding work in his five-volume history of the 29th Infantry Division. Either way, readers will discover that this work captures not only the advance of the "Blue and Gray Division" through Europe against the forces of Nazi Germany, but more importantly, the human side of combat.

The Last Roll Call is an extremely well-researched and well-written account of the final months of World War II combat for the storied 29th Infantry Division and the postwar era. It vividly describes the division's history as it fought across the Roer and Rhine Rivers to its eventual link up with Soviet forces and V E Day. However, the story of the 29th Division does not end there. *The Last Roll Call* continues to follow the unit and soldiers into postwar military governance in the Bremen Enclave, and finally to the troop transport ships back to the United States.

Balkoski begins with a short organizational discussion of the 14,000-man division to include staff officers, as well as divisional and regimental units and their commanders. This overview, along with the twenty three maps and numerous historical photographs and sketches, work to tell the Blue and Gray's story.

Much of the history of World War II's European Theater focuses on "grand strategy" at the army and army group level, and on general officers and field

marshals. Balkoski instead focuses on the tactical level, telling the GI's story of the Blue and Gray as he masterfully links individual stories of soldiers such as Private Henry Slade Harrell as he received his I A (fit for general military service) draft notification, to his death on a footbridge while crossing the Roer River. Combat is the story of individuals and Balkoski tells that story well, using a vast array of primary source documents. *The Last Roll Call* also draws on personal accounts, divisional journal entries, operations and intelligence reports, soldiers' letters, and news articles to tell the 29th's history in an easy to read, narrative format.

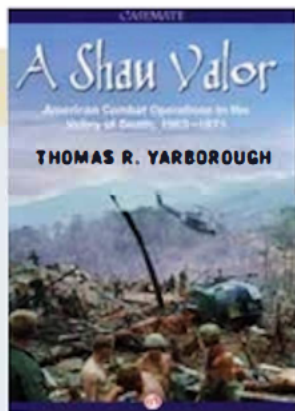
Unlike other histories of this period and directly addressing the volume's title, *The Last Roll Call*, Balkoski provides a powerful and often emotional account of the fallen soldiers of the 29th Division. Captain Maurice McGrath is one such fallen hero. Killed in action while commanding a company of the 116th Infantry Regiment in October 1944, his story does not end with his death. Balkoski applies the same academic research and rigor that he gives to living soldiers. He traces Captain McGrath's body from local internment at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Belgium to its eventual return to his hometown of Philadelphia for burial in 1947.

While this volume is a history of the 29th Infantry Division, it also serves as a primer for current soldiers and policymakers as they grapple with

contemporary issues, including conflict termination, civil-military operations, interactions and integration with former belligerents, as well as redeployment and homecomings. Regardless if one is reading this book as a historian, soldier, statesmen, or someone with an interest in this era, Joseph Balkoski's *The Last Roll Call* is a highly recommended addition to professional or personal reading on the Army.

Marty M. Leners
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

**Joseph Balkoski's
*The Last Roll Call: The
29th Infantry Division
Victorious, 1945* can
be enjoyed as a stand-
alone volume, or as the
concluding work in his
five-volume history
of the 29th Infantry
Division.**



A Shau Valor: American Combat Operations in the Valley of Death, 1963-1971

By Thomas R. Yarborough. Havertown, PA: Casemate Publishers, 2016. ISBN 978-1-61200-354-2. Maps. Photographs. Appendix. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. 336. \$32.95.

For well over twelve years, the American military engaged in combat with the Viet Cong (VC) and the Peoples' Army of Vietnam (PAVN). The conflict raged from the Mekong Delta of then South Vietnam to the far reaches of the northern portions of the country. Recounting events of the Vietnam War challenges an author to "fashion a comprehensive account of the facts without getting bogged down in minutiae and repetitious detail" (p. 20). Retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel and historian Thomas R. Yarborough, a forward air controller in Vietnam, accepts this challenge in his book *A Shau Valor*, which concentrates on this major infiltration route into South Vietnam.

Combat actions took place in the approximately twenty-five-mile-long valley where "rugged ridgelines over 5,000 feet tall, covered with dense double canopy jungle and impenetrable stands of thick bamboo, deep ravines, saddles, draws, and treacherous, forbidding cliffs" (p. 13). Relying on unit histories, after action reports, and citations for valor, among them fifteen Medals of Honor awarded to men engaged in action in and around the A Shau, Yarborough recounts a story that has long waited telling.

The A Shau Valley contained three major infiltration routes for PAVN forces to follow into South Vietnam. To address how each side sought to control the area, Yarborough constructs each chapter with an examination of the geopolitical situation for a given year, along with the implications and impact of these

events on tactical operations. Prior to examining a given action, Yarborough engages in an interesting discussion on the inferences derived from the Chinese and Vietnamese astrologers' Zodiac calendar. For example, the Year of the Goat "suggested a cautionary time when one might be drawn into complex predicaments" (p. 62).

While the North Vietnamese pursued a strategy designed to unify the country, the overall U.S. commander in Vietnam, General William C. Westmoreland, created one that sought to attrit the enemy and force them to the bargaining table. In light of this, Yarborough builds a case that supports the view that failure to gain observable and measureable objectives that supported an attainable end state dismayed the men fighting the war, along with many of their fellow citizens in the United States.

Yarborough explains in detail the employment of special operations forces, air power, naval gunfire, and ground troops in the A Shau, all attempting to deny the area to the PAVN. He also relates the adventures of two future Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Generals Colin Powell and Hugh Shelton, who served as junior officers in the A Shau Valley.

Yarborough is at his best in his discussion of the brutal struggles at Khe Sanh, Fire Support Base Ripcord, and Hamburger Hill. His writing brings the frustration of expending precious lives and vast amounts of materiel resources

to gain a terrain objective then abandoning it after it was secured to the forefront. One of his particularly striking commentaries concerns the withdrawal of ground forces at the conclusion of Operation DEWEY CANYON: "the NVA still controlled the Valley of Death and would continue to do so unless permanent 'boots on the ground' stopped them. Outsiders like the 9th Marines and the 101st Airborne Division could visit the valley, but they could not and did not remain. That was the inescapable Law of the Valley—it was 'Charlie's Law,' and he enforced the edict with unyielding determination at the point of a gun" (p. 163).

This is a truly remarkable, well-written, thought-provoking book. A detailed list of applicable abbreviations used in the text along with maps, notes, and an impressive bibliography enhance the overall value of the book. As such, it will appeal to a wide audience interested in gaining a better understanding of the Vietnam War.

Dave Judge
Centreville, Virginia

Army & Almanac

MILESTONES IN ARMY HISTORY



240 Years Ago – 25 December 1776

General George Washington leads a surprise attack across the Delaware River against the Hessian garrison at Trenton, New Jersey. The Continentals quickly overwhelm the Hessians and capture the town.



230 Years Ago – 4 February 1787

Major General Benjamin Lincoln's militia attacks rebel forces after the Commonwealth of Massachusetts declares a state of rebellion. The battle takes place at the armory in Springfield, Massachusetts, during what becomes known as Shays' Rebellion.

215 Years Ago – 16 March 1802

The U.S. Military Academy is established in West Point, New York

210 Years Ago – 19 February 1807

Soldiers under the command of Lieutenant Edmund P. Gaines, 2d Infantry, apprehend former U.S. Vice President Aaron Burr, who is wanted for treason, near Wakefield, Mississippi Territory.



205 Years Ago – 2-12 January 1812

Congress approves additional regiments for the Army—ten infantry, two artillery—along with six frontier companies. Army leadership is increased to two major generals and seven brigadier generals.

195 Years Ago – 21 March 1822

Lieutenant Colonel Zachary Taylor selects a location for a new Army fort in between the Sabine and Red Rivers. The post is named Fort Jesup for Quartermaster General Thomas Jesup and houses four companies of the 7th Infantry.

180 Years Ago – 3 February 1837

Colonel Alexander Fanning and his detachment of dragoons and artillery is ambushed by over several hundred Seminole warriors at Lake Monroe, Florida.

170 Years Ago – 31 December 1846

After marching 250 miles, Colonel Alexander William Doniphan's troops arrive just in time to assist Brigadier General John E. Wool's army against a force of 1,200 Mexican troops at the Brazito River in what is now New Mexico.

165 Years Ago – 14 March 1852

Major Pitcairn Morrison of the 8th Infantry establishes Fort McKavett on the San Saba River in Texas as part of the frontier defense system. It is named after Captain Henry McKavett of the 8th Infantry, who was killed in the Battle of Monterrey in 1846.

155 Years Ago –

16 February 1862

Union forces led by Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant capture Confederate-held Fort Donelson in Tennessee. Grant is promoted to major general shortly after his success at Fort Donelson.



130 Years Ago – 1 March 1887

Congress establishes the Army Hospital Corps.

115 Years Ago – 3 March 1902

Heavy Artillery and Light Artillery are combined into a single Corps of Artillery.

110 Years Ago –

30 December 1906

The War Department issues General Order No. 204 authorizing the use of "dog tags" for soldier identification.



105 Years Ago – 11 February 1912

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers raises the USS *Maine* from Havana Harbor.

100 Years Ago – 5 February 1917

The last U.S. troops leave Mexico, bringing an end to the Punitive Expedition.



95 Years Ago – 22 January 1922

The U.S. Army Band is established in accordance of orders signed by the Army Chief of Staff General John J. Pershing. The band is later nicknamed "Pershing's Own".

90 Years Ago – 31 December 1926

The "choker" style of collar is retired from the Army uniform and replaced with the new notch style collar.

75 Years Ago – 13 March 1942

The Army establishes its first K-9 units. In the coming months, 20,000 dogs are "recruited" for military use.

70 Years Ago – 15 March 1947

General Lucius D. Clay is appointed Military Governor of Germany and Commander-in-Chief, Europe (CINCEUR).

65 Years Ago – 31 January 1952

The 40th Infantry Division arrives in Korea and begins replacing the 24th Infantry Division at the front lines.

55 Years Ago –

15 March 1962

The Vietnam Advisory Campaign, the first campaign of the Vietnam War, begins.



50 Years Ago – 8-26 January 1967

U.S. and South Vietnamese forces conduct Operation CEDAR FALLS in an effort to clear the Viet Cong out of the Iron Triangle region northwest of Saigon.

45 Years Ago – 10 March 1972

The 101st Airborne Division withdraws from Vietnam.

40 Years Ago – 21 January 1977

One day after taking office, President Jimmy Carter pardons the almost 13,000 men who fled to Canada and other nations to avoid military service during the Vietnam War. The decision angers many veterans.

35 Years Ago – 28 January 1982

Brigadier General James L. Dozier is rescued by Italian counterterrorist forces in Padua. Dozier had been kidnapped in Verona by the Italian Red Brigades terrorist group in December 1986.

15 Years Ago – 2-18 March 2002

Special Operations forces, Afghan troops, and elements of the 10th Mountain and 101st Airborne Divisions conduct Operation ANACONDA, the largest military operation to date in Afghanistan. U.S. and allied forces inflicted heavy casualties on al Qaeda and Afghan fighters during the operation.



STRAY ROUNDS...

ARTILLERY ROUNDS UNCOVERED...In addition to causing destruction along the coast of the southeastern United States in early October, Hurricane Matthew uncovered at least a dozen Civil War-era artillery rounds on Folly Island, South Carolina. Local residents discovered the ordnance shortly after the storm subsided and called local authorities. Police and Air Force explosive ordnance disposal technicians removed the rounds and safely detonated them. During the Civil War, Union forces used Folly Island as a staging area and supply depot during operations against Confederate defenses surrounding Charleston.



HELICOPTER VETERANS MEMORIAL...Representative Mark Amodei (R-NV) has introduced legislation in Congress calling for a memorial in Arlington National Cemetery honoring the nearly 5,000 rotary wing pilots, crew chiefs, medics, and door gunners who died during the Vietnam War. Amodei's bill, H.R. 4298, the Vietnam Helicopter Memorial Act, has the support of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Association, and the National Association of Uniformed Services. Under current law, new memorials and monuments cannot be added to Arlington National Cemetery without congressional approval.

QUARTERMASTER MUSEUM...On 15 September, the U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum at Fort Lee, Virginia, held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its redesigned Petroleum and Water Exhibit.



The ceremony, attended by approximately 100 guests, including Brigadier General Rodney Fogg, the Army's Quartermaster General, marked the completion of

the one-year renovation of the Petroleum and Water exhibit area. One of the highlights of the redesigned ex-

hibit hall is a life-size bronze casting of petroleum supply specialist Staff Sergeant Ronald Knowles, which shows him turning a wheel valve of a pipeline. Other displays include various photographs, touchscreen kiosks, and artifacts, including a canteen dating back to the War of 1812. For more information on the Quartermaster Museum, visit www.qmmuseum.lee.army.mil.

WORLD WAR I ART...The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, opened an exhibition on 4 November that explores how American artists responded to World War I. *World War I and American Art* is centered on eight themes, including Prelude: The Threat of War; Mobilization; Battlefield; The Wounded and the Healers; and Celebration and Mourning. The exhibition features 160 pieces of various stylistic approaches by eighty artists, including John Singer Sargent, George Bellows, Howard Chandler Christy, and James Montgomery Flagg. The exhibition runs through 9 April 2017. For more information, visit www.pafa.org.

12TH INFANTRY MEMORIAL...The 12th Infantry Regiment Memorial Committee has launched a campaign to establish a memorial to the regiment's proud legacy of service at the National Infantry Museum's Walk of Honor. Veterans of the 12th Infantry who are interested in the project are encouraged to contact Colonel Glen "Rusty" Armstrong, President of the 12th Infantry Regiment Monument Committee, at Rusty1542@gmail.com or (414) 630-2484.

FORT TUTHILL MILITARY MUSEUM...The staff of the Fort Tuthill Military Museum in Flagstaff, Arizona, proudly announces that the museum's grand re-opening at its new location within the perimeter of the original fort quadrangle will take place on Armed Forces Day, 20 May 2017. The museum is dedicated to preserving Arizona's military history, dating back to the formation of the 1st Regiment, Arizona Volunteers, in 1865. Built in 1929, the fort served as the summer training facility for the Arizona National Guard. Among the units that trained there was the 158th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the "Bushmasters." For more information on the museum, visit www.forttuthill.org.



101st Airborne Division Association Snowbird Reunion, 8-11 February 2017, Marriott Westshore, Tampa, Florida. For more information, contact Eddie Pissott at (813) 454-3205, epissot@tampabay.rr.com, or visit www.101fgcc.org and Facebook at Snowbirds Reunion.

Aviation Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Vietnam, 1965-1972) 2017 Reunion, 17-19 February, Cape Coral Florida. For more information, contact Pete Rzeminski at (708) 421-5744, pjr@pjr.net.

24th Infantry Division Silver Anniversary of Desert Storm Reunion, 24-28 February, Fort Stewart, Georgia. For more information, contact Chaplain Darrell Williams at (423) 312-4752 or visit www.facebook.com/24thIDreunion.

DUSTOFF Association 38th Annual Reunion, 29 March-2 April, Holiday Inn Riverwalk, San Antonio, Texas. For more information, visit the Association website at <http://dustoff.org>.

Society for Military History 84th Annual Meeting, 30 March-2 April, Hyatt Regency Jacksonville-Riverfront, Jacksonville, Florida. For more information, visit www.smh-hq.org or contact Dr. Kurt Piehler at kpiehler@fsu.edu.

Company L, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, 2017 Reunion, 19-23 April, Nashville, Tennessee. For more information, contact George Vlasic at (910) 287-5618.

Army Counter Intelligence Corps 2017 Reunion, 27 April 1 May, Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, Herndon, Virginia. For more information, contact Stan Solin at stan83@live.com.

2d Cavalry Regiment Association 2017 Reunion, 27-30 April, Williamsburg, Virginia. For more information, visit the Association website at <http://dragoons.org>.

U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Alumni

Association 2017 Reunion, 7-11 May, Columbus, Georgia. For more information, contact Nancy Ionoff at (813) 917-4309, ocsalumnireunion@gmail.com, or visit the Association website at www.ocsalumni.org.

173d Airborne Brigade Association 2017 Reunion, 17-21 May, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. For more information visit the Association's website at www.skysoldier.net.

1st Cavalry Division Association 70th Annual Reunion, 7-11 June, Killeen, Texas. For more information, visit the Association website at www.1stcda.org.

Civil War Institute 2017 Summer Conference, 9-14 June, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. For more information, visit www.gettysburg.edu/cwi/conference/.

Redcatcher 199th Infantry Brigade, Vietnam 1966-1970, 2017 Reunion, 19-23 June, Silver Legacy Resort/Casino, Reno, Nevada. For more information, contact Jim Brinker at (814) 706-7475 or visit the Association website at www.redcatcher.org.

173d Airborne Brigade Association 2017 Italy Reunion, 10-14 July, Vicenza, Italy. For more information, visit the Association website at www.skysoldiers.net.

Special Forces Association 2017 International Conference, 12-17 June, DoubleTree by Hilton Fayetteville, Fayetteville, North Carolina. For more information, visit the Association website at www.specialforcesassociation.org.

4th Infantry Division Association 2017 National Reunion, 13-20 August, DoubleTree by Hilton, Colorado Springs, Colorado. For more information, visit the Association website at www.4thinfantry.org.

91st Division 100th Anniversary Centennial Gala, 19 August, Blackhawk Auto Museum, Danville, California. For more information visit <http://91stdivisionleague.org>.

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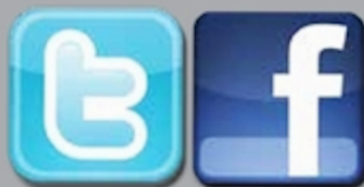
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95th Infantry Division Association
<http://www.95divassociation.com>

General Lew Wallace Study and Museum
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Honor Flight Network
<https://www.honorflight.org>

Reenactment of the Battle of Lexington and Concord
<https://www.nps.gov/mima/patriots-day.htm>

World War II Open Learning Course
<https://www.extension.harvard.edu/open-learning-initiative/world-war-history>

The Battle of Chosin – The American Experience
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/chosin>

The History Detectives – PBS
<http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives>

Western Indian Wars – National Museum of American History
<http://amhistory.si.edu/militaryhistory/printable/section.asp?id=6>

Society for Historians of the Early Republic
<http://www.shear.org>

Virginia Museum of the Civil War
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